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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, SIXPENCE.]

THE RE-ASSEMBLING OF PARLIAMENT.

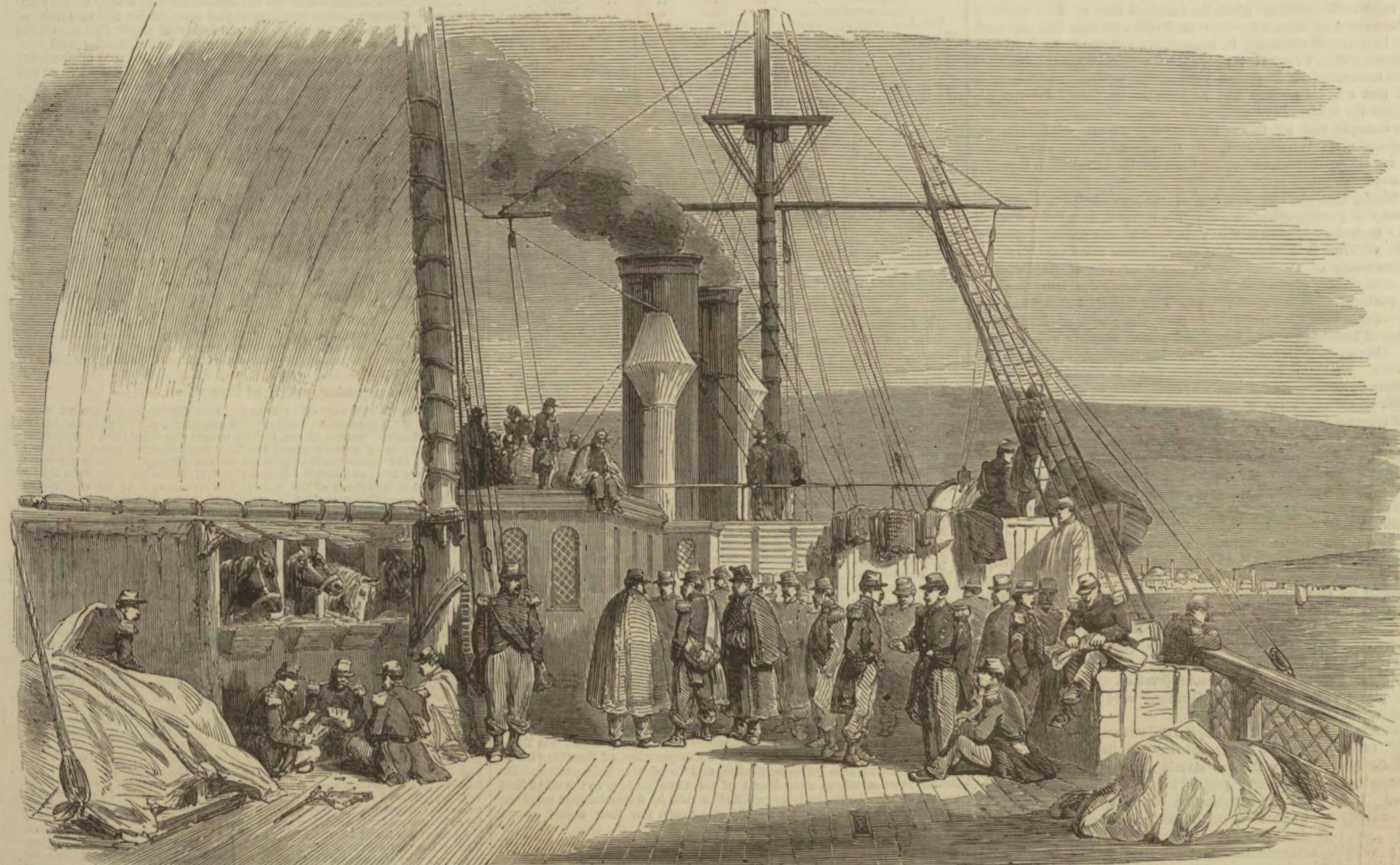
CAN this great and free nation carry on a mighty war to a successful issue in the blaze of publicity? Is the fullest liberty of speaking and writing consistent with a state of warfare? Can a Commander-in-Chief, with newspaper correspondents in his camp, detailing his every movement, divulging to some extent his plans, criticising his conduct, exposing to the world his weaknesses, and informing his enemy of much that an enemy ought not to know, cope on anything like equal terms with the forces opposed to him by a Despot inexhaustible in resources, uncontrolled by any human check, having absolute power, and carrying out his own objects in silence and secrecy? Can the Parliamentary system of Government, with its virulent party animosities, its diffusion of powers and authorities, and its uncertainties of Ministerial tenure, be trusted with the conduct of a war against one of the most formidable Empires of the earth, in which there are no such elements of change to supersede to-day the authority of yesterday, and in which concentration and centralisation act on the grandest scale, and in the most rapid and effective manner? These are but a few of the questions that thoughtful men are asking themselves in the present critical condition of Europe and of our national fortunes, and to which a response will be sought in the deliberations of the British Legislature.

We have no fears for the result. Great as may be the inconveniences, resulting in certain cases from the license of opinion in the press, in society, and in Parliament, the advantages of the fullest liberty outweigh the evils a thousand times over. If the war have been mismanaged, it is right that the truth should be told, in order that the remedy may be applied. If our administrative forms are cumbrous, costly, and mischievous, he is a public benefactor who proclaims the fact—more especially if the accusa-

tion lead to the change of a bad and unworkable system for a good and an effective one. If any man in power have been incompetent (which some may have been), or dishonest (which we do not believe), his accusers should be invited to speak out, so that disgrace or punishment shall overtake him. If the system of promotion in the Army, and the sale of commissions, have given us subaltern and superior officers, ignorant of their profession, having no love for it, and destitute of all merit but that of personal courage—in which the private soldiers are their equals, if not their superiors—the truth ought to be told, that the system may be changed before irreparable calamity befall our arms or sully our hitherto spotless honour. In our nation men can dare to speak the truth. We are not, like ostriches, to hide our heads in a hole, and console ourselves in the delusion that, if we refuse to see a wrong, the wrong is not existent. The enemy is welcome to the knowledge of our shortcomings and failures, and to all the good that he can derive from it; for he will learn at the same time, or very shortly afterwards, that the common sense of the British people has devised a remedy for every proved abuse. The Aristocracy has done good service, and will do it again; and, if it be desirable to throw open the prizes of the Army to merit, and to place in the knapsack of the humblest soldier the chance of becoming a General or a Field-Marshal, the Aristocracy will not only yield to, but approve, the change. If our officers are mere dandies, who bought commissions for the sake of wearing the gaudy uniform—if they are men who like playing at soldiers in time of peace, but detest the real business of war, and demoralize themselves and the soldiers under their command, by grumbling, and whining, and railing at those above them, when they ought to set an example of stoicism, if not of heroism, the nation will find the means to dispense with their services, and to invite the middle classes to enter the Army, by offering to talent a fair field of ambition, and a suffi-

cient pecuniary inducement. We say, therefore, let the grumblers and the growlers speak out; for the grumbler may, after all, be a patriot. Let faction say its say. Let the conduct of men in power and command be canvassed as freely as possible. Whatever truth there may be in such accusations will, by being told, produce a reformation. Whatever falsehood there may be in them will recoil in shame upon the heads of those who foolishly or maliciously invented it, or lent themselves to its promulgation, and will not tarnish the fame of men who, in a period of unexampled difficulty, have been placed at the head of the councils or of the armies of their country. Freedom is our life's blood; and if it sometimes result, from our system, that incompetency and red-tapism be found in high places, our freedom gives us the means of removing, as well as of discovering, the obstruction.

During the Session—which recommenced on Tuesday last—all these topics will be earnestly considered. The nation need not fear a more than usually factious discussion of them. Parliament, the very arena of faction, is far less factious than the press; and when Parliament begins to speak, the organs of party, following the lead of its chiefs, usually relapse into more sober behaviour. When Parliament is not sitting the perversions published in the morning may remain uncontested for weeks and months; but when the House of Commons is deliberating, the falsehood is comparatively harmless, for it may be demolished in the evening in the Senate of the country. Instead of complaining of publicity, what the nation in reality requires at such a crisis as the present is a greater publicity. The publicity of "leading articles" is not sufficient. We want the publicity of full debates and of Ministerial statements. If the one be the bane, the other shall prove the antidote. We are known to be a nation of grumblers; but, if we grumble, a sound common-



DECK OF THE FRENCH TRANSPORT, "L'EUPHRATE," OFF MESSINA.—SKETCHED BY E. A. GOODALL.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

sense forms the substratum of our character. If we grumble at the tax-gatherer, we pay him; and if we grumble at our hardships in the Crimea, or elsewhere, we conquer in spite of them. Such has always been our character, and such it will ever be. All England speaks in every man of us; and when we fight, all England fights in the person of every soldier. Such a people may make a mistake, but is never to be despised of: for it will rise superior to them all, and gather strength from the encounter with its difficulties.

The Session—towards which the eyes and ears of all Europe will be directed with an interest and anxiety far beyond anything witnessed in recent times—opened with a calmness quite unexpected. It may have been only the calm which is to precede a storm; or it may have been the calm which is the concomitant of conscious power, and of a foregone conclusion, based upon reason and not upon passion. Whatever may have been its causes, the spectacle was remarkable. In the midst of a European war, assailed by one portion of the press as traitors, and by another as incapables; and, if neither traitors nor incapables, having enough on their hands to occupy all their attention and task all their energies, the heads of the various departments of the Ministry coolly announced a series of measures of internal reform of the highest interest to the social welfare of the people. A bill to promote Education in England and Wales, to be introduced by Lord John Russell; another, to amend the Law of Partnership, to be introduced by Mr. Cardwell; a third, to alter and amend the Public Health Act, and to provide, to some extent, Municipal Institutions for the Metropolitan Boroughs, to be introduced by Sir Benjamin Hall; and a fourth, to be introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to regulate anew the Stamp-duties on Newspapers;—such are among the measures which Parliament is to be called upon to sanction, whilst the war is still raging, and while the fate of Europe is weighed in the balance at Balaclava and Sebastopol. Parliament was not surprised at these announcements, but received them as things which it had a right to expect. Is this a proof of Ministerial strength, or weakness? Time will show. But until the motions that have already been placed on the paper for an inquiry into the conduct of the war shall have been fully debated, it will serve no purpose to hazard an opinion. We can but say that it looks like strength, and hope that it will prove so.

THE FRENCH TRANSPORT "EUPHRATE."

We have received from our Correspondent *en route* for the Crimea the accompanying spirited Sketch of the deck of the French transport *Euphrate*. This vessel was built for the Australasian and Pacific Mail Steam Packet Company, and has been bought for the Paquebots Poste de la Méditerranée:—

"We sailed (writes our Correspondent) from Marseilles on the evening of the 25th ult., with 420 men, drafts for the 6th, 12th, 27th, 28th, 31st, and 6th French Regiments serving in the East; besides several staff officers, and General Brunet, who goes out to the Crimea to command the 9th Division of the French Army. On the morning of the 27th we touched at Messina, to leave the mails, the Captain having orders to remain as short a time as possible. In the bay were several other steamer-transports full of troops. The accompanying Sketch was taken from the deck of the *Euphrate*, off Messina. On the 30th we were at Athens; on the 1st inst. we arrived at Constantinople, the day after the last mail, which sailed for Marseilles on the 21st ult. Among the passengers on board the *Euphrate* were Major Benson, 17th Lancers; and Mr. Black, who married Lord Byron's Maid of Athens."

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

The unfavourable influence which the uncertain state of affairs exercises upon commerce here induces the Court to abandon the intention expressed by the Emperor of remaining in comparative retirement until matters shall assume a more favourable aspect. It being found that great balls are the fêtes most calculated to produce a favourable influence on trade, it is decided that a series of these will be given at the Tuilleries during the season, and the Ministers and other high functionaries are invited to follow the example thus set them. M. de Morny, the Duc de Bassano, M. de Cambacérès, the Prince Murat, M. Drouyn de Lhuys, and various others are taking the hint, and giving balls, soirées, and concerts in pretty rapid succession.

On Monday took place the first ball at the Hôtel de Ville, which was organised with peculiar splendour, and with a regard to selectness which gave it a marked superiority in this respect. The long gallery leading to the Salle du Trône was decorated with eight views taken exclusively in the departments of the Seine. On the other side of the Salle du Trône on the ceiling of the Salle du Zodiaque, were placed four beautiful landscapes by M. Cogniet, representing the Four Seasons, and in the middle an Aurora of remarkable beauty. The long gallery was completely lined with bars of looking-glass, which produced a most singular and brilliant effect. The rest of the decorations bore no less the stamp of richness and good taste. So many precautions were taken to abridge, by judicious arrangements, the interminable weariness of the train of carriages conveying between six and seven thousand persons, and such strict measures adopted to prevent the sale, and transfer by other means, of invitations, that the two greatest drawbacks to the entertainment were, as far as possible, obviated, and altogether the reception was one eminently successful.

The sanitary condition of the capital and its environs is, we regret to say, in a bad state. Experienced physicians declare that the past year and the commencement of the present have been the most unhealthy they have witnessed for the last ten years.

We do not recollect ever experiencing in any part of Europe that we have visited—certainly not in England or France—any succession of days so cold as the whole of those of the past week. Not only did water become solid ice in almost all rooms without fires, but the moisture that exuded from tiled and flagged floors congealed, and the dwellings of many of the poor and working class were thus floored with a coating of ice; The Seine, and most of the other rivers, have quantities of floating ice, and the snow, which fell thick and fast, to the depth of many inches, in no way diminished the rigour of the temperature. The cavalry guard usually placed at the Arch of the Carrousel were withdrawn in consequence of the intense cold.

The weekly return of fires in the capital and its environs has been really frightful. One day last week there were no less than four-and-twenty, and no day has passed without a certain number occurring; indeed, this winter has been unusually prolific in these accidents, proceeding principally from the faulty construction or fitting of chimneys and stoves—an evil for which there ought surely to be some easy mode of redress.

As a valuable counterbalance to these disadvantages, reports from various parts of the provinces state the aspect of the grain crop, especially the wheat, promises a yet more magnificent harvest than that of last year, and it is noted that the vines will be greatly benefited by the frost.

It appears that the health of the Prince Napoléon is so seriously affected as to cause a delay in his return to Paris, to which his physicians desire him to proceed only by extremely short journeys, with intervals of rest between.

On the 31st of this month a brilliant concert is to take place at the Salle Hertz, for the subscription for the soldiers and sailors of the Crimea. The concert is to be given by the celebrated pianist Fumagalli, aided by Mme. Bosio, MM. Baucardé and Graziani (of the Italian Opera), and by M. Jules Lefort, whose charming talent as a *salon* tenor gives him few rivals. He is to sing a romance composed for the occasion by M. Dufrêne, "En avant, les Zouaves!" M. Fumagalli, among other *morceaux*, will perform his grand fantasia on "Robert le Diable" with the left hand.

The reception of M. Berryer at the Académie de France, which was announced to take place on the 25th, has been deferred indefinitely—or, at least, the period for its occurrence is not known.

Already are the products that are to be displayed in the Palais d'Industrie beginning to be admitted. Some of the works of art have already been received; and there seems to be little doubt, notwithstanding the various reports circulated to the contrary, that the opening of the Exhibition will take place at the period named. The butchers of Paris have united to hire the Salle Montesquieu for the purpose of establishing a magnificent restaurant for the occasion.

The sudden influx of visitors to the Diner de l'Exposition (of which we last week gave a notice) has been so enormous, that, notwithstanding all the preparations made for their reception, it has been found impossible, as yet, to organise the service of the *cabins particuliers*, or to serve any but the public rooms. Measures are, however, being taken to meet this exigency, and it is expected that in another week the difficulty will be obviated.

The Théâtre-Français is giving the new creation of Mdlle. Rachel, "La Czarine," by Scribe. The success is not altogether what was anticipated, nor does the celebrated tragedian seem so much at home in her rôle as in certain others, more especially those of the classic tragedy. Still, as a whole, the piece may be considered as a successful one. The Emperor and Empress, and the Prince Jérôme, accompanied by his daughter the Princesse Mathilde, were present at the first representation. But the theatrical production of the moment, that promises to secure the greatest popularity, is "Le Chien du Jardinier," at the Opéra Comique—the words by MM. Lockroy and Cormon, the music by M. Albert Grisar, whose well-established reputation as a composer of *opera-bouffes* has gained fresh laurels in this most lively and agreeable little production. The subject is taken from peasant life ("Le Chien du Jardinier" is the French version of the "Dog in the Manger"), and is admirably sung and acted by Faure, Ponchard, and Mmes. Lefebvre and Lemercier. The *livret* is sprightly and amusing; and the music gay, original, and full of pleasing and uncommon effects.

THE GERMAN FEDERAL ARMY.

Now that so much is talked of the Federal contingents being mobilised, it may be interesting to know of what they consist. The tables published by the Military Commission at Frankfort show the total strength of the Federal Army (being the sum of the Federal contingents) to be 525,037 men, constituted as follows:—

		Men.
I., II., III.	Austria	153,295
IV., V., VI.	Prussia	170,509
VII.	Bavaria	50,236
VIII.	Wurtemberg, Baden, Hesse Darmstadt	47,557
IX.	Saxony, Electoral Hesse, Nassau, Luxembourg, Limburg	35,336
X.	{ Hanover, Brunswick, Oldenburg, the Hanseatic Towns,	49,918
	Mecklenburg	18,188
Reserve Division of Infantry	525,037	
TOTAL	525,037	

There are distributed among the different arms as follows:—

Infantry (of whom 28,621 are sharpshooters)	404,502
Cavalry (with 72,032 horses)	71,149
Artillery (with 7424 horses)	40,270
Engineers	5,745
On the different staffs	3,371
Total	525,037

In addition to the above are—

Surgeons	1,470
Transport department	16,838

The siege artillery consists of 250 guns, viz., 122 cannon, 31 howitzers, and 97 mortars. The whole is tactically subdivided into 387 battalions, 409 squadrons, and 147 batteries, consisting of 1122 guns.

A recent plan for a new Federal Military Constitution contemplates an increase of 50,000 men in all, an increase of the artillery to the proportion of five guns to every two thousand men, instead of two to every thousand, as at present, and a reduction of the proportion of the cavalry to the infantry from one-seventh to one-eighth, on the ground that the increase of 50,000 men will be applied chiefly to garrison purposes. Whenever there is the least prospect of a Federal mobilisation, the unsatisfactory state of the contingent of the petty States is brought into greater prominence, but is always smoothed over by one or other of the greater Powers for their own political connection's sake. Should the Federal army ever be brought into the field there would be little more than the seven first corps d'armée available, say 400,000; on the other hand, Austria and Prussia would always have further forces over and above their contingent, which they would willingly enough bring into Federal service, as by that means the troops would be kept at Federal cost, and at the same time procure a proportionate amount of ascendancy for the nation to which they belong. One of the most faulty is the medical department; some small contingents have no surgeon at all; while one contingent has eight surgeons, another of similar strength has one. In exact proportion to the poverty and the mismanagement of these minute States is their pride and their repulsive tendency, so that anything like an arrangement among themselves for a medical staff at joint expense is next to impossible.

The conscription ordered for the Bavarian army for the present year amounts to 13,000 men, the usual amount of one-sixth of the whole army; the only deviation from prescriptive practice is, that they are called out this year from three to four months earlier than usual. This number consists of 9820 infantry, 1878 cavalry, 1068 artillery, 127 engineers, and 107 for the medical department.

AMERICA.

The steamer *Atlantic* arrived at Liverpool on Monday morning last, having left New York on the 10th instant.

Money matters were beginning to appear more favourable in New York, although there were still complaints of hard times.

Political affairs were quiet, and the proceedings in Congress have been quite uninteresting. The proposed mediation of the United States in the European war appears to be shelved for the present in the Congressional Committee of Foreign Affairs.

Some important recommendations are contained in the Governor of Massachusetts' Annual Message. He calls on the general Government to exercise a consolidating and ameliorating power over the elements of emigration. He asks the American authorities to dispel from popular use every foreign language; to print all public documents in the English tongue alone; to ordain that all schools aided by the State shall use that language; to disband military companies founded on and developing exclusive foreign sympathies; to discourage imported political demagogues, the broken-down leaders of insular agrarianism or Continental Red Republicanism; to Americanise America; to retain the Bible in the common schools; to keep entire the separation of the Church and State; to nationalise before neutralise, and to educate before either. He further recommends an amendment of the Constitution, to the effect that no one of alien birth shall be qualified to vote by naturalisation until he has been in the United States twenty-one years, nor then unless he can read and write the English language.

Admiral Bruce has sailed from New York in the steamer *George Law*, on his way to California, to take command of the British squadron in the Pacific. A public meeting has been held at New Orleans in aid of the Patriotic Fund.

The intelligence from California is not of importance. Commercial affairs were quiet. Mining was still retarded by want of water.

THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

The Russian reports, which come down to the 14th, say that nothing decisive has yet been done. The state of the weather will account for this, as winter seems to have fairly set in. The Russians had made one or two sorties, but had not met with any success. A letter dated Kamiesch, the 8th January, states that the batteries of mortars established by the French greatly annoy the Russians, who have in great numbers retired to Simpheropol.

The *Courrier de Marseille*, of the 23rd inst., publishes the following letter dated before Sebastopol, the 7th inst.:—

The weather has been frightful for some days, snow having fallen without intermission during twenty-four hours. But this was not the greatest inconvenience we had to endure. The sun appearing converted that snow into liquid mud, which now covers our Camp, and renders all the roads impassable. Towards evening the cold again sets in, which is endurable in our cantonments, but extremely painful to the men on duty in the trenches. It appears certain that a great portion of the corps of Liprandi has marched in the direction of Eupatoria, for we no longer perceive its fires on the neighbouring heights. The Russian General, it is said, intends to attack the Turkish division before it receives reinforcements from the army on the Danube. But no fears are entertained for the security of the place, which has been put in a respectable state of defence by the French officers of Engineers and Artillery. The 12,000 or 14,000 men already landed there are, besides, more than sufficient to repulse the enemy.

In the evening of the 3rd a strong division of Cossacks made its appearance in the vicinity of Balaclava. The Russian Generals, no doubt, intended to draw thither a part of our force, for, on the following morning, they sallied out of the batteries of the Garden, and attacked the French lines. Their attempt, however, was unsuccessful. They were quickly repulsed, and vigorously driven back into the place. Omer Pacha, accompanied by Mustapha Pacha and some English and French officers, arrived on the 5th at the head-quarters of the Allies, where he was enthusiastically received. After a visit paid by the Turkish Generalissimo to Lord Raglan and General Canrobert, a council of war, at which Admirals Lyons and Bruat assisted, sat for several hours. As you may suppose, the result of that conference was held secret. However, from what transpired, it is believed by the superior officers that Omer Pacha, at the head of an army of at least 50,000 men, reinforced by an Anglo-French Division, will operate, toward the close of the month, to the north of Sebastopol, keeping in check the Russian troops resting on Simpheropol and the reserves which may arrive from the interior of Russia. Prince Menschikoff appears determined not to risk any general affair, whether his army is still under the impression of its defeat at Inkerman, or that he relies on the inclemency of the season on our soldiers. This last opinion is evidently entertained by the Russian General, who is reported to have said—"Our troops may rest; Generals January, February, and March will fight their battles far better than they could." These are in reality the auxiliaries on which the Russians always most confidently rely, for it is to them they are indebted for their most decisive successes. But, thank God! the situation of the Allied armies is such that they can bear without any great inconvenience the inclemency of a climate to which they are now inured, and it is little probable that the Russians themselves are in so favourable a condition. Moreover, under existing circumstances, eight days of fine weather may totally change the aspect of affairs. At the request of Lord Raglan, our intendance placed 10,000 cloaks with hoods at the disposal of the English army, which consequently now wears the French uniform.

The following letter from an officer, dated "Camp Balaclava, Jan. 5," will show what hardships our troops are enduring in that bleak region:—

Twenty men, I am told, died last night in the trenches. The line are on duty every alternate twenty-four hours, and are without clothes. We are all on short allowance of food. It is impossible to keep any thing dry in such weather as this, that is the worst of it. By taking violent exercise you get warm, but you also get moist; and, instead of drying your clothes, simply freeze them, and get wet whenever you take them in from the air. I am told by the chaplains and doctors (the best authority on the subject) that the state of the hospitals is dreadful. A sick man has nothing to lie upon but his regimental blanket—of course, a mere rag in most instances now. They have no lights for the hospitals, unless the surgeon himself provide them. They have few medicines, and fewer still of the common requisites of sick diet.

We have no proper supplies for field hospitals; no waggon train to bring up stores; no field train for the transport of ammunition and siege guns; no storehouses at Balaclava for housing and arranging the supplies of all kinds, even when, late in the campaign, they begin to arrive. Now, on these four things and on a proper amount of supplies of every kind depends the efficiency of the army. Granting that supplies are now coming in (not the hospital supplies, mind), they are useless, for want of the other three. We cannot find them at Balaclava without the greatest difficulty, though they are absolutely lying in many instances in the mud. We cannot bring them up, if we find them, in sufficient quantity to be of any use. The horses of the cavalry and field artillery have been used to bring up stores and do fatigue work of all kinds until they are completely useless. We have neither cavalry nor field artillery at this moment really efficient. The men are therefore employed to bring up on their shoulders the shot and shell for the batteries, as well as their own rum and other provisions, and their wood, and this from distances of from seven to ten miles, through a country knee-deep in some places in mud. Of course, they knock up by hundreds and go to the field hospitals, and there they get from bad to worse, and, instead of recovering their strength in two or three days, they are carried down by the French to Balaclava, where those that do not die remain until transports can be procured to remove them to Constantinople.

OMER PACHA AT VARNA.

A letter from Eupatoria of the 3rd inst. states that a body of

NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE.

The statement of Mr. Cobden at the Manchester tea-party, that Government had made up its mind to conclude peace with Russia on such terms as would not satisfy the country, was not borne out by the explanation which Lord John Russell gave on Tuesday evening. The various accounts also which have been given of the interview between the Russian Minister and the representatives of the Western Powers show that no progress has yet been made, or is likely to be made, under present circumstances. It appears that, on the 6th instant, Prince Gortschakoff suddenly declared that he had orders to accept the Four Points (which had so recently been declared incompatible with the dignity of Russia), and that he was prepared to negotiate. On the 7th the different clauses of the interpretation put upon these Four Points by the Western Powers were slowly and distinctly read to Prince Gortschakoff, and at the end of each article he said, "I accept that in the name of the Emperor of Russia." But, when the reading was concluded, he said in a general way that he was not prepared to admit any excessive encroachment upon the independence of Russia. At the same time he said he was fully empowered to treat for peace, and desired that the negotiations should begin immediately. The Austrian Minister, M. Buol, then spoke. He congratulated the Conference upon the unanimity of feeling which prevailed, and supported Prince Gortschakoff's demand that negotiations should be opened at once. M. de Bourqueney then said, in the name of himself and Lord Westmoreland, that this was impossible, as they had not sufficient powers, and, moreover, nothing definitive could be done without the presence of a Turkish Plenipotentiary. The meeting then broke up, M. Buol requesting the French and English Ambassadors to obtain full powers as soon as possible. This narration is consistent with the remarkable telegraphic despatch which stated that Count Buol had "invited" the representatives of France and England to treat for peace. There was an initiative taken by Austria, which was not acceded to. After the above conference M. Buol gave a large evening party, at which Prince Gortschakoff was present. The Austrian Minister appeared quite joyous, and spoke confidently of peace being at hand. M. de Bourqueney's conversation with the friends who pressed around him was in quite another tone. He said he must wait for instructions, and before instructions arrived Sebastopol would probably be taken.

The following communication, from a well-known trustworthy correspondent of the *Augsburg Gazette*, will show the Emperor of Russia's interpretation of the Four Points:—

As a complement of what I have already sent you on the present state of affairs, I now transmit the interpretation of the four guarantees, such as it was drawn up by Prince Gortschakoff himself, and which, when sent by him to St. Petersburg, before the conference of January 7, was accepted by the Emperor of Russia, as intimated by the telegraph. It was on this basis that a provisional understanding was come to in that conference. This draught, thus prepared by Prince Gortschakoff, has received the approbation of the Emperor of Austria and of the King of Prussia. It runs thus:—1. The abolition of the exclusive protectorate of Russia in Moldavia and Wallachia, the privileges conceded to these provinces by the Sultan being placed under the guarantee of the Five Powers. 2. Free navigation of the Danube, according to the principles established by the acts of the Congress of Vienna concerning fluvial communications. Control of a mixed commission, invested with the necessary powers to remove all obstacles, now or hereafter, at the mouth of that river. 3. Revision of the treaty of July 13, 1841, in order to connect more completely the existence of the Ottoman empire with the European equilibrium. I do not refuse to come to an understanding, in formal conference for peace, on the means which the Three Courts may propose in order to put an end to what they call the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea, on condition that, in the choice of means, nothing be introduced calculated to affect the rights of sovereignty of my august master in his own territories. 4. A collective guarantee of the Five Powers (substituted for the exclusive patronage which some of them have hitherto possessed) for the observance of the religious privileges of the various Christian communities, without distinction of creed, on condition that the realisation of the solemn promises made in the face of the world by the greatest Christian Powers be a serious and conscientious work, and that the promised protection be a *bond fide* one, and not an empty word.

The latest news from Germany are that the hopes of peace are becoming more and more faint. The transformation of the defensive treaty into an offensive one is proceeding actively at Vienna.

Preparations for war are being continued with undiminished energy. On the 16th another note was sent by Count Buol to Berlin, calling upon the Prussian Cabinet to fulfil its obligations, under the treaty of April, to mobilise its army.

The *Indépendance de Bruxelles* has telegraphic information that in this note Austria informs Prussia that, should she not obtain a majority in the Diet on the question of mobilisation, she will proceed under the 42nd article of the Federal Pact, i.e., will accept the active alliance of such Germanic States as may choose to join apart from their federal obligations.

RENEWAL OF BLOCKADE IN THE BLACK SEA.

The following telegraphic despatch has been received at the Admiralty from Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons:—

Being informed that considerable consignments of munitions and contraband of war have taken place from neutral ports of the Mediterranean to those of Odessa and Kerch, the Admirals of the English and French squadrons have determined on establishing an effectual blockade of the principal Russian ports in the Black Sea, and to notify the strict enforcement of this blockade from the 1st of February, 1855. Steps have been taken to provide for an efficient force, being, prior to that date, stationed before the principal ports which are to be blockaded, furnished with due authority for the purpose in the names of the two Governments.

RUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS FOR THE CRIMEA.

By consular reports from Galatz and Braila we learn that the march of troops from the Russian Danubian army to the Crimea, by way of Odessa, still continues. An infantry division, which was in garrison at Ismail, as also the reserves which were standing at Kischenev, Akerman, and Kiew, are advancing in forced marches to the seat of war. The whole reinforcement is estimated at about 20,000 men. At the same time that the Russian manifesto of the 28th of December appeared the Czar addressed a warlike proclamation to the army.

A letter, purporting to proceed from St. Petersburg, dated the 10th, says that for some time past numerous relays are posted at intervals of four leagues from Odessa to Sebastopol for the purpose of conveying, as soon as the snow is frozen over, reinforcements to the amount of 40,000 men for the Russian army. The Russian papers affirm that they will have on the 15th of February an army of 160,000 men in the Crimea.

According to the most accurate information, conveyance by sledges cannot be thought of in the Crimea, and even on a part of the steppes which are above Perekop, as a mode of transport of a permanent and regular nature, because the snow does not generally remain sufficiently long and with the necessary degree of solidity. The Russians cannot, therefore, count upon the sledge in the interior of the Crimea, and it will not be possible for them to make use of it, except to a certain distance above Perekop.

A letter from Odessa of the 8th says:—

It is not doubtful that Russia is preparing for a long and obstinate war. A great number of facts might be quoted to prove this, but we will cite only one. The buildings which were temporarily constructed last autumn at Ochta, in the government of Novgorod, because the storehouses and workshops of that military establishment, though more than large enough in ordinary times, were not considered sufficient, are about to be replaced by permanent constructions of such a nature as to prove they are not only intended as a protection against a *coup de main*, and even an attack of the enemy's fleets, but are intended to defy the more destructive effects of time.

At St. Petersburg complaints are heard against Prince Menschikoff, who, strange to say, is accused by the Imperial *entourage*, and even by the people, of excessive prudence, and a total want of that perilous quality which sometimes impels a General to leave a good deal to chance. He is accused of being too faithful a disciple of General Koutouzoff, who is said to have fought, in spite of himself, the battle of the Moskowa in 1812, which was disastrous to the Russians, and not to have displayed sufficient energy in preventing the French from penetrating into Russia. The people are beginning to get clamorous against the Prince, and discontented even with the Czar, who, they think, has already made far too many concessions. To more they will not listen. Osten-Sacken is again spoken of as likely to obtain the command, in the event of Menschikoff's removal, with Liprandi as his second. In case of a change, it is not certain whether the Prince will be summoned to St. Petersburg, or be left in the Crimea with the duty of defending the city during the assault, while Osten-Sacken commands the army in the field. The letters repeat the assurance that the feeling of the population of St. Petersburg is decidedly for war.

A RECONNAISSANCE IN FORCE.

On the night of the 29th ult. orders were sent from Sir Colin Campbell to the 79th Regiment, and to the four companies of the 2nd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, commanded by Major Bradford, to be ready and under arms at half-past six o'clock the next morning. It was a cold but fine day; and at dawn all the troops were drawn out, and remained on the heights above Balachaia for some time, very curious to know what they were going to do. The demi-battalion of Zouaves encamped near the Marines were also out, and soon after seven o'clock the advanced guard of a strong division of French troops appeared in the valley on the left, and proceeded to

the hills lately occupied by the Russian redoubts. The French force consisted of about 8000 men, and it was accompanied by two squadrons of cavalry. As soon as they had occupied the plain of Balachaia, the Rifles and Zouaves were pushed on in front, preceded by cavalry skirmishers and videttes. Sir Colin Campbell was on the ground, with several of his staff, and, with General Bosquet, whose division seemed to furnish the bulk of the troops on the field, had the direction of the movements of the day.

The force was all in motion before eight o'clock, the Rifles and Highlanders turning to the right, and covering the flank of the little expedition as it marched on, or beating through the woods and ravines which abound along the mountain chain on the left of the valley. As the force approached Kamara the Cossack videttes came in sight, retiring slowly, but the French pushed on rapidly, and the Cossacks retreated from the village, which has been in a ruinous state since the storm of the 14th of November and the first French reconnaissance. The videttes fell back on a strong body of Lancers and Light Cavalry, which seemed disposed to await the shock of the French Chasseurs. The retiring and advancing cavalry skirmishers exchanged a few carbine shots before they fell in with their respective squadrons, and when the French had arrived within about 800 yards they broke from a trot into a gallop, and dashed right at the Russian cavalry. The latter met the shock, but made no attempt to charge upon the French, who broke them in an instant, and chased them right back to the infantry, who were assembled in three small bodies on the hills, close to the village of Tchourguem. The Russians cut very feebly, and fought without spirit, so that the French had only a few men wounded. As the French approached Tchourguem they were received with a brisk fire of shot and shell from some heavy field-pieces, to which their guns were unable to reply at so great a distance; but they soon pushed within range of the enemy, and the Russians again retired, and abandoned the village of Tchourguem to our allies, as well as the line of cantonments and huts which they had constructed since Liprandi's advance in October. The object of this expedition was merely to beat up the Russian position, and to ascertain the strength of the enemy—it was, in fact, a reconnaissance in force, and there was no intention of bringing the Russians to an engagement. Had any such intention existed, it would have been unsuccessful, for the enemy retired with great speed, and fell back on the heights over the Tchernaya and the road to Mackenzie's-farm, covered by their artillery, which was as heavy as usual, and quite sufficient to crush the fire of the light French field-guns. Our allies at once burst into the village, but the Cossacks had been there too long to leave anything to plunder, and so the French set it on fire. At the same time they applied combustibles to the huts of the Russians, and soon the whole cantonment was in a blaze, while great volumes of white smoke curling up into the air, and spreading in sheets along the crest of the hills, indicated the destruction of the village, and informed the Russians that they could no longer hope for snug quarters there. The huts built by the Russians were very commodious and comfortable. Each was capable of containing twenty or thirty men, and held an oven for baking at the end, which also warmed the room. The camp, though rather dirty, was well built, and in excellent order. The object of the reconnaissance having been accomplished, the expedition was halted, and the men set to work at once to avail themselves of the abundance of wood along the hill sides, and to make enormous fires, which almost obscured the retreat of the Russians. It was ascertained that they were very weak, and that they did not number more than 5000 or 6000 men. They appeared to march in broken masses up the steep and difficult roads leading to the heights over the Tchernaya. Two strong bodies of the enemy were, however, visible on these hills, nearly opposite to our right flank, towards Inkermann. They had a tall white flagstaff erected in front of their position, from which they hoisted one large red and one white flag when the French were entering Tchourguem. Towards evening they lighted their camp fires, and it was evident that a considerable force still remained on the hills between the Tchernaya and the Belbek. The French remained on the ground till it was almost dark, and then returned to their camp. The Highlanders and Rifles, who had made a very romantic march through some beautiful valleys on the right, returned without seeing anything of the enemy, and did not fire a shot. The French lost two officers wounded (one since dead) and about twenty men put *hors de combat*. They took seventeen of the Russian cavalry and a few infantry prisoners.

THE SORTIE ON THE 20TH ULT.—ORDERS FOR SENTRIES.

The abandonment of the advanced works by the sentries of the 7th Regiment, on the night of the 20th ultimo, has ended in a court of inquiry into the matter. It seems that the sentries were not sufficiently advanced, so that the enemy came upon them before they could rouse their pickets; and it also appears that there was an absence of the proper defences, or of any attack upon the enemy. Major-General Codrington, now in command of the Division, published the next day after the repulse the following

DIVISION ORDER.

The Major-General regrets that, in the attack made last night by the enemy on the advanced works of Frenchman's Hill, the breastwork was quitted, the enemy entered it, and have caused a loss of 1 officer (missing), 4 killed (men), 18 wounded, and 12 missing.

The loss of life, this risking of credit and character, appears to have arisen from the sentries remaining so close to the works that they could perceive nothing until too late. The alarm could only be given when the enemy was upon the work, and thus a handful of Russians, whom the troops would eagerly have attacked by daylight, was enabled to take our ground from us for a time.

The attention of the field-officers, and particularly of the senior officers, present in the advanced work, is now particularly called to these circumstances. They must see, by frequent visiting, that the sentries remain well to the front, and in their proper advanced positions.

And it must be an order positively carried out so near the enemy that at least one-half of the troops there remain up, in a compact body, with their arms in hand, ready to fire upon the enemy, or to charge vigorously with the bayonet, by which he is sure to be driven back at once.

This is to be read to each company by officers.

(Signed) W. CODRINGTON, Major-General.

HOW THE FRENCH MANAGE IN THE CRIMEA.

The distance between the head-quarters of General Canrobert and the port of debarkation is between six and seven miles. An excellent macadamised road, with a trench on one side, and drains running beneath at intervals, has been nearly completed the whole way; and along this route may be seen constantly passing lines of mules carrying well-balanced packages of biscuit from Marseilles or Toulon, or other *vivres militaires*, destined for the respective divisions of the army, and trains of waggon, *equipages militaires*, also drawn by mules, bringing planks, chests, forage, and every description of army stores in the same direction. As soon as the brow of the hill overlooking Kamiesch Bay is arrived at, the spectator exchanges the comparative desert plateau—the monotony of which for the last two or three miles has only been broken by the presence of a ruined farmhouse, or the remains of a vineyard, once flourishing in some little sheltered spot—for all the varied scene and business of an active seaport. Up to the very end of the harbour itself, as far as depth for anchorage can be obtained, almost from its mouth, is densely packed a long line of merchant-vessels, ranged side by side in rows varying in depth according to the variations in shape and capacity of the bay, from eight or ten to five-and-twenty in number in each row. Stretched across the wider part of the bay, near its communication with the sea, are several large line-of-battle ships, between which from time to time is sailing in or out some of the smaller merchant craft. Several large vessels are lying in Double Bay beyond; and from the point of Cape Chersonese, with its white lighthouses along the coast towards Sebastopol, other war-steamer and ships are moving along, or lying at anchor. The new town is built, or rather encamped, towards the southern end of the harbour—the military stores, landing-places, and offices being nearer to the seaboard. The principal street, the "Rue de Commerce," consists of two lines of booths and stalls of every imaginary shape and contrivance for answering the double object of protecting the articles from the weather, and at the same time exposing samples with an inviting aspect to the gaze of the visitor. Masts, beams, rigging, and canvas from the ships have been the chief materials used in the construction of these shops and dwelling-places. Every house is numbered, and placards announce the name and place of connection of its merchant proprietor, and the principal wares to be sold. Articles of clothing, preserved provisions, and groceries are staple commodities. Wines and French liquors are to be obtained, but generally of an inferior description; the better sorts can only be purchased on board the vessels in the harbour. Among the shopkeepers are several of the French settlers; and the regimental *cantinières*, in their trim military attire, may be seen busily following their active avocations. Some of the shopkeepers are Maltese; there are a few Germans also. Some very large stores with stone walls, and others of considerable extent made of wood, are rapidly advancing towards completion. In a short time the Rue de Commerce will be put into the shade by its broader and more solid neighbour, which is stretching up the hill, and at right angles to it. Great activity prevails at the military end of the port. Stores are being landed from the ships, and packed on the beach, or are being carried up by the troops into temporary storerooms and depots. Mules are coming down with empty pack-saddles; others are passing on their return to the camps laden with their respective burdens. Large piles of timber planking are staked up, and there are heaps of grain and forage, casks and boxes of

provisions. A number of Ottoman troops are encamped close by to assist in the labours of the port. These troops have made long lines of ground huts for themselves, which appear sufficiently snug and warm. Although Kamiesch Bay has not the same advantages as a harbour as are presented by the sheltered port of Balachaia, its shores, shelving very gradually and rising to an extensive plain, offer unlimited space for the landing of stores and erection of storehouses. None of the difficulty is therefore experienced which so much impedes the progress of disembarkation of stores and military matériel at Balachaia, where one narrow road for some distance forms the only available line of route for all the passengers and traffic passing in and out of that mountain-locked inlet.

THE WAR IN ASIA.

Accounts from the Turkish army in Asia up to the 29th ult. have been received. All the environs of Kars are garnished with fortifications. At all proper points, bastions and redoubts are to be seen in course of construction by Major Mahmoud Effendi, after the plans of Hussein Pacha, the chief of the staff, and infinitely better than those of the past year. Each spot has been appropriated to a particular regiment or battalion in case of attack; and even the inhabitants have their stations for defence assigned to them. Every week the soldiers are perfected in a different manoeuvre, and are prepared for the various evolutions that may be necessary during a campaign. The bread and rations are said to be excellent, and the men have quite forgotten their past misery. The sanitary condition of the army is perfect.

The Reis Kerim Facha had effected a communication with Schamyl, and hoped to hear from him within three days. A little time back Schamyl entered Sarybach and made prisoners of some hundreds of Russians. He then withdrew to Aver, leaving at Sarybach Daniel Sultan and Mahmoud Gari Effendi, his son and the brother-in-law of Daniel Sultan. The latter was formerly a Russian General, but is now Commander-in-Chief of Schamyl's army. He has 20,000 men under him, of whom 6000 are regulars, principally Russian deserters officered by Poles. He has also thirty-two guns. The inhabitants of the Caucasus, notwithstanding their difference of religion, really rejoice at the approach of Schamyl, though they suppress any open manifestation of feeling, in dread of the Russians. They afford Schamyl all the assistance they dare, and his army is daily augmented by deserters.

Very lately the Polish Prince Bariatynski, a Lieutenant in the Imperial Russian Guard, deserted, and entered the Turkish service.

THE RUSSIAN FORCE IN THE PACIFIC.

We learn by an extra issued from the office of the *Polynesian*, and received by the last steamer from the United States, that the American brig *Noble* reached Honolulu, in the Sandwich Islands, on the 12th of November, direct from Petropavlovsk, where she was lying at the time of the attack by the Allied fleet in August last. The *Noble* was struck by several shots from the squadron during the action, but sustained no very serious damage.

She left at Petropavlovsk the Russian frigate *Aurora*, the transport *Dwina*, a corvette recently arrived, and two small craft belonging to that Government. The frigates *Diana* and *Palladar* are both at the river Amoor, a Russian military colony; where are also the Governor-General of Siberia, Admiral Putatine, and about 5000 troops, and two or three small vessels, including a steamer.

The *Echo du Pacifique* says:—

It is understood that the Russian ship *Kamschatka*, which now lies in the harbour of San Francisco, is only a privateer, prepared to leave the port at the earliest moment, to attack the French and English merchantmen; but we can assure our readers with regard to her. If the *Kamschatka* desires to begin her adventures she will soon find somebody to speak to. The English frigate *President*, which left two days after the arrival of the *Kamschatka*, did not go without learning the true character of the latter vessel, and has not left the vicinity of San Francisco; and will re-enter the harbour about the 15th or 20th of the month. Besides, the French frigate *Aleste* left Callao on the 10th October, destined hither, and is now due. The English steamer *Virago* will likewise soon be back to our harbour. We know that the *Kamschatka* has eight guns and a crew of 100 men, and that she did not come hither for nothing; but she is watched so closely that if she leaves the harbour she will follow the *Sitka*.

RUSSIA AND THE GERMAN CONFEDERATION.

Under date of St. Petersburg, Dec. 14, Count de Nesselrode addressed the following despatch to Baron Budberg, the Russian Envoy at Berlin:—

The Emperor has been made acquainted with the language which the Plenipotentiary of the two Courts of Mecklenburg held at the Frankfort Diet under different circumstances, when that assembly was called upon to pronounce itself upon the Eastern question.

Already, in the sitting of the 14th of July, at the time of the deliberations on the treaty of the 20th of April, M. D'Ortzen declared that the two Courts which he had the honour to represent, while congratulating themselves upon the good understanding established between the Cabinets of Vienna and Berlin, did not dissimulate that the accession of the Germanic Confederation to that treaty of alliance, defensive and offensive, would respond neither to the spirit of the federal pact nor to the position assigned to Germany as a European power; that it would upset even the limits which Art. 47 of the final act of Vienna defined as to its eventual co-operation, and that on that account the august Courts which he represented could not vote for the adhesion. Faithful to this view, the Plenipotentiary of Mecklenburg abstained from voting at a later period, when the Diet was called upon to pronounce itself upon the additional article of the 27th of November.

It is to be regretted, M. le Baron, that the very correct language of M. D'Ortzen did not prevail in the Federal Assembly. His object was to spare Germany the complication which the Cabinet of Vienna is labouring more and more to make it responsible for. You are aware that our august master has always carefully avoided any interference (*ingérence*) in the questions submitted to the deliberations of the Diet, and which are exclusively under its cognizance.

But his Imperial Majesty cannot deny himself the pleasure of expressing to the two Grand Ducal Courts how much he appreciates their noble attitude in interest of a policy which, under the pretext of assuring the return of peace, tends to make the present war a struggle which will embrace the whole of Europe.

Be so kind as to convey to their Royal Highnesses the expressions of interest of our august master in the most suitable manner you may deem it advisable.

I am, &c.
NESSELRODE.

INDIA, CHINA, AND AUSTRALIA.

The steamer *Calcutta* arrived at Trieste from Alexandria on Wednesday, in 116 hours, having left that port on the 19th inst. The Marseilles portion of the Overland Mail was leaving Alexandria on the 19th. The following is a summary of the intelligence:—



DEPARTURE OF THE BRITISH EXPEDITION FOR THE TIEN-TSIN RIVER.

SIR JOHN BOWRING'S MISSION TO PEKIN.

We have this week given the Sketches relating to the English mission to Pekin which we promised in our last publication. The following account of the transaction is from the *Friend of China*, Nov. 22, 1854:—

Her Majesty's ship *Rattler* (Captain Mellersh) has returned to Woosung from her expedition to the Gulf of Pechili, bringing back his Excellency Sir John Bowring and suite. We understand she was anchored nearly a month at the mouth of the Pei-ho (more properly the Tien-tsin-po) in company with the United States steam-frigate *Pocahontas* (which conveyed his Excellency Mr. M'Lane, the American Commissioner, and his party) and the United States steamer *John Hancock*.

Communications were regularly kept up between the ships in the bay and the Secretaries of the two Ministers, who were established in the river on board the United States' schooner *Fenimore Cooper* and lorch *Chusan*, which had been towed up by the larger ships as auxiliaries to the expedition. A grand display took place on the 3rd November, when, preceded by the band of the *Pocahontas*, and passing through lines of about 200 men, consisting of naval officers, marines, and seamen, accompanied by the national flags, the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain and America landed, and, walking arm in arm, were received by an immense crowd of Mandarins, who escorted them to tents which had been prepared for the occasion; at the entrance of which they were met by the Imperial Commissioners deputed by the Emperor to receive them. When the usual compliments had passed, the inner tent was cleared of the multitude of Chinese Mandarins and foreign officers who had crowded into it, and the high functionaries proceeded with their negotiations. After the interview, which lasted several hours, the Plenipotentiaries remained six days in the bay, which the *Rattler* left on the 10th instant.

Nothing whatever has transpired as to the result of the conferences which have taken place, and the public curiosity will probably remain ungratified until the respective Governments see fit to publish the communications of which the Plenipotentiaries are bearers. We understand Count Klezkowski was introduced by the British and American ministers, as charged with communications from the French Minister, who was unable to proceed in a national ship of war to the

Pei-ho, in consequence of the disaster which happened to the frigate *La Jeanne d'Arc* at the entrance of the Yang-tze-kiang.

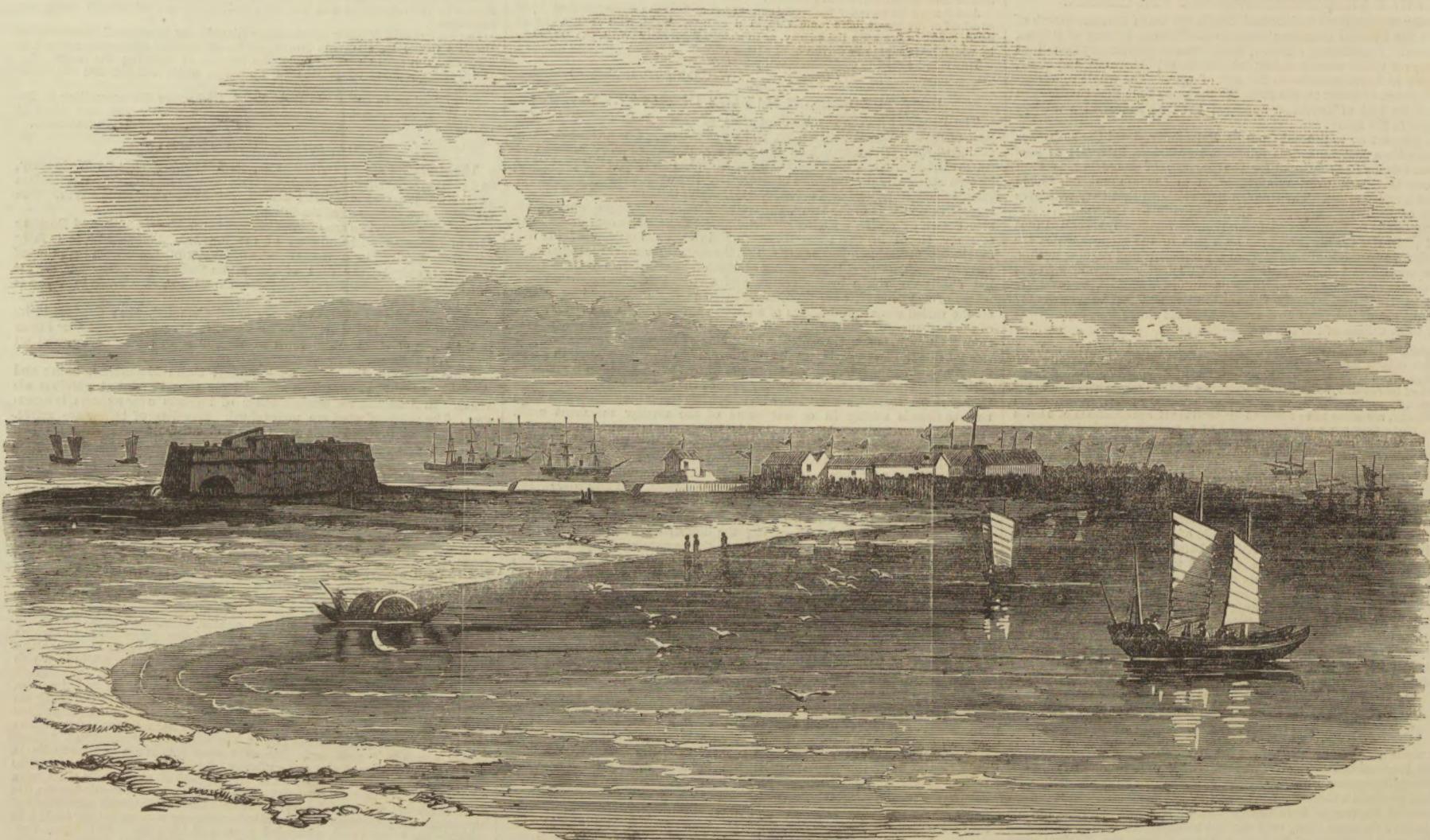
While the Ministers were engaged in their conference with the high Mandarins, ample supplies of refreshments, tea, &c., were provided for the whole party who had accompanied their Excellencies to the shore. Tents had been erected for the accommodation of everybody, and many a ludicrous scene took place in the process of fraternization between the subjects of "Western outer nations" and native officers and attendants, many of whom saw our people for the first time. A black man from the *Rattler* was an especial object of curiosity and wonderment.

NEWSPAPERS SENT ABROAD.—A very large number of newspapers for places abroad, upon which a postage ought to have been prepaid, being continually posted without such prepayment, the Post-office authorities have issued a notice recommending persons who are in the habit of transmitting newspapers to foreign countries, or to any of the colonies, to satisfy themselves, by inquiry at the Post-office, whether or not any postage is payable upon them in this country, before they deposit their newspapers in the letter-box. Newspapers for foreign parts, which have been improperly posted unpaid, are detained and sent to the Dead Letter office.

A FROSTY NIGHT IN THE CRIMEA.—Words cannot describe the suffering which the army must have undergone last night. During the whole of yesterday it snowed heavily, and about eight p.m. the wind veered round to the north, when it commenced freezing very sharply. To-day snow is on the ground knee-deep, with a clear sky, and a keen wind from the north that would "cut a feather." This morning at daylight the men found their boots frozen like a lump of iron, and most of them had no others to put on. Their bed-clothes, also, notwithstanding the heat of the men's bodies, were frozen. Many of the men are suffering from chilblains. The boots that are served out are of no use; the snow soaks through them as it would through a piece of sponge, and if they step in above the ankles it falls in that way. It is said that

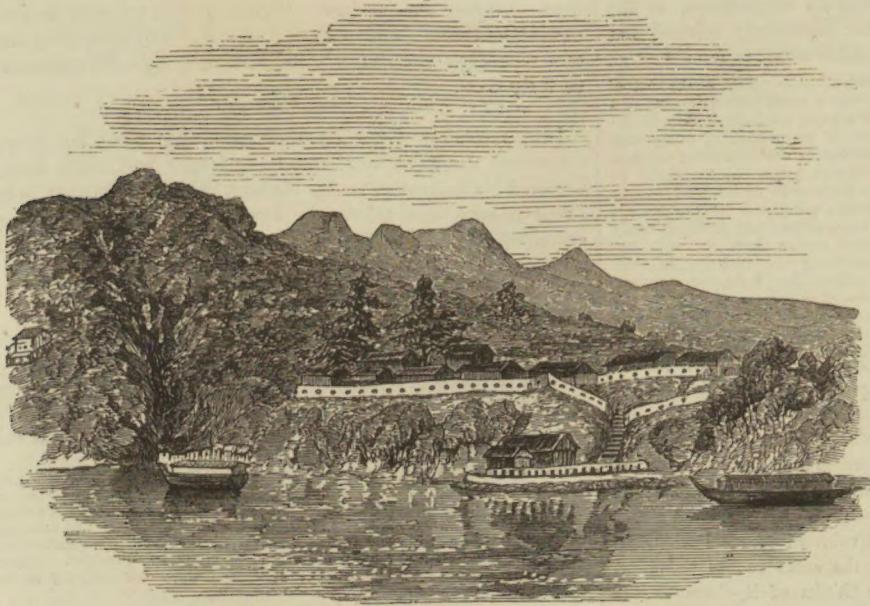
the "men will all have high Turkish boots eventually;" but winter is here, and now is the time they want them. Even the moisture which gathers on a blanket from a man's breath freezes now. Huts are a farce; spring will be here before half of the army obtain them. In the meantime a fearful number of men will be lost. I heard an officer say that some men going on duty into the trenches last night were actually observed to be crying, and these were men of stout hearts, who had not quailed under the fire of the enemy at Alma and at Inkermann. A battle is, indeed, a horrible affair; but starvation from cold is worse. In the one, a man dies with the reflection that his death is honourable; in the other, what must his feelings be? I know, from experience, what others suffer, for I myself frequently experience the sensation that my hands are increased to the size of legs of mutton, and this from cold alone. The army has all the comforts sent out that a generous nation can give; they know it. Even the meanest man in the ranks knows it. But Balaklava harbour and Sebastopol heights are two places. An immense gulf separates them, and this is the stumbling-block of all their luxuries. The distance of ten miles here is less surmountable than the whole journey from England. Requisitions are freely given for everything required by the Quartermaster-General's department; but then comes the rub—the articles are at Balaklava. They are wanted on the heights. And whose fault is it? It is, perhaps, hard to say; but all turn to the chief of the commissariat. Our commissariat has no idea of working except by contract. Contract in a foreign land is out of the question, since we only possess a portion of the enemy's country.—*Letter from the Camp, Janury 5.*

FRACAS BETWEEN PARAGUAY AND THE UNITED STATES.—A Washington letter, written on the 9th, says:—"President Lopez of Paraguay took down the American flag, banished Hopkins, and took possession of the property of an American company established to navigate the Paraguay river. He ordered all Americans connected with it out of the country, forbade American vessels of war to enter the waters of Paraguay, and stopped all further operations of the United States surveying expedition."



SQUARE FORT AND OUTWORKS ON THE NORTH BANK OF THE TIEN-TSIN-PO.

SKETCHES IN JAPAN.



MILITARY STATION, HARBOUR OF NAGASAKI.

Two weeks ago we gave an account of the late Expedition to Japan, accompanied by a number of Sketches illustrative of the dress and manners of the inhabitants, &c. In our publication of this week we engrave a few additional sketches of Japanese scenery and costume, which will assist our readers in forming some notion of the appearance of the inhabitants of that remarkable island. The following extract of a letter from a young officer on board the *Winchester*, dated Nagasaki, October 5, 1854, gives an interesting account of what he saw in Japan, during the visit of the English:—

The scenery, in making the island, is very beautiful. Mountains in the interior are very lofty, and covered with forests on their southern fronts, but the larger vegetation ceases directly you arrive at the summit; and the whole northern slopes are destitute of trees, but covered with smaller verdure, presenting a strange appearance—the northerly winds having shaded them as regularly as if done by man. The ridges are crowned with a row of tree-tops—their roots being sheltered on the south side—looking like the bristles on a hyena's back. The closer you approach the land the more it displays its beauties. The country, which is undulating, and in parts very lofty, is covered with verdure, and cultivated to the very tops of the mountains. The atmosphere is delightful, clear, and transparent, quite in opposition to the humid, yellow, windy atmosphere of China. The temperature, too, has fallen to 70 deg., which we feel delightfully cool. Having notified our arrival to the Governor, and intimated our intention of going into harbour, we went in accordingly. The entrance is remarkably pretty, being covered with several picturesque islands, with plenty of guns in battery, but evidently planted by some one totally ignorant of fortification; they are all mounted *en barbette*, hardly any of them covering another. The fort at the entrance is mounted with two-and-twenty remarkably handsome pieces of ordnance. We anchored off the mouth of the inner harbour, across the entrance of which was drawn a cordon of large boats connected by hawsers. Directly we were anchored the Admiral sent despatches to Jeddo. After being here a week they allowed us to land on a little island, about two acres in extent, covered with trees and bamboos, under extraordinary restrictions, guard-boats, all round to cut off communication with the shore; no fires to be lighted,

trees cut, or rocks to be moved, and every one to be off by sunset. The Japanese are small of stature, and of rather an intellectual expression, very clean in their persons and boats. Not having seen their houses, I cannot speak of them. They are all armed; men of superior rank with two swords;

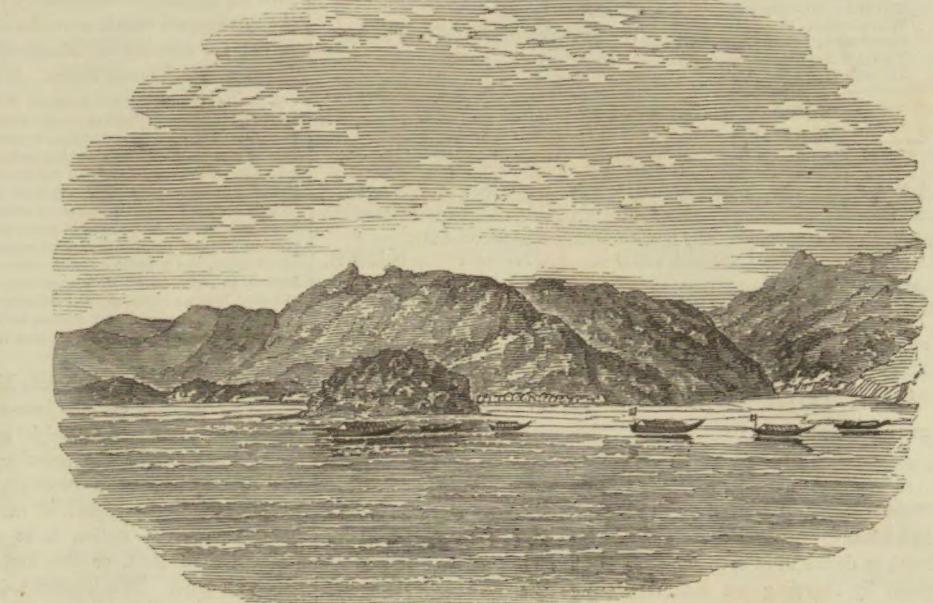
latter are allowed to send four junks a year, and the Dutch two ships, which is the only external trade the Japanese have.

Last week it was arranged that the Admiral should visit the Governor, who was received at the landing by the principal officers of the city, and conducted by them to the Governor's house. The street, or rather flight of steps, was lined on either side with troops—a very meagre lot, who had their matchlocks covered with red baize, it not being considered orthodox to expose steel to the eyes of a friend; indeed, we had great trouble in persuading one or two to show us the blades of their swords, which appeared beautifully-tempered weapons. The Admiral was graciously received by the Governor, and the officers accompanying were presented in due form. A collation of sweetmeats and pound-cake was served up. When the repast was finished the Admiral held his interview. The diplomacy progressed slowly but satisfactorily; and at length a treaty was drawn out, and another interview held with the Governor, at which it was signed. The exact purport I do not know; but it was to the effect that we should enjoy all the privileges conceded to other nations at any time; that a certain number of ports should be open to us; that the Russians should receive no assistance at the hands of the Japanese. The Governor required a list of the officers of the squadron, stating that it was the Emperor's wish that a present should be made to each according to his rank: when they appeared, however, they were nothing but a number of sets of inferior china. The Admiral's, however, which came direct from the Emperor, were splendid: a most magnificent cabinet of lacquered ware, inlaid in the best taste with mother-of-pearl; two beautiful embossed china vases, with dishes, trays, &c., to match; some silks, &c.; lacquered boxes; two little dogs, a specimen of spaniel—these I believe he intends for the Queen. After the treaty was signed we remained for some days whilst the papers were being translated. The Japanese expressed regret at our leaving, and seemed anxious that commercial relations should be opened between the two countries.

The position of Japan, favoured also

others with one. Their dress is plain, consisting of a dress of grass-cloth or crêpe, and silk trousers; they wear shoes, grass soles, with a strap across the instep, going down between the big and second toes; they are better-looking than the Chinese, on whom they look with contempt. Talking about the Russians, they said they did not think much of them—they were dirtier than the Chinese. The

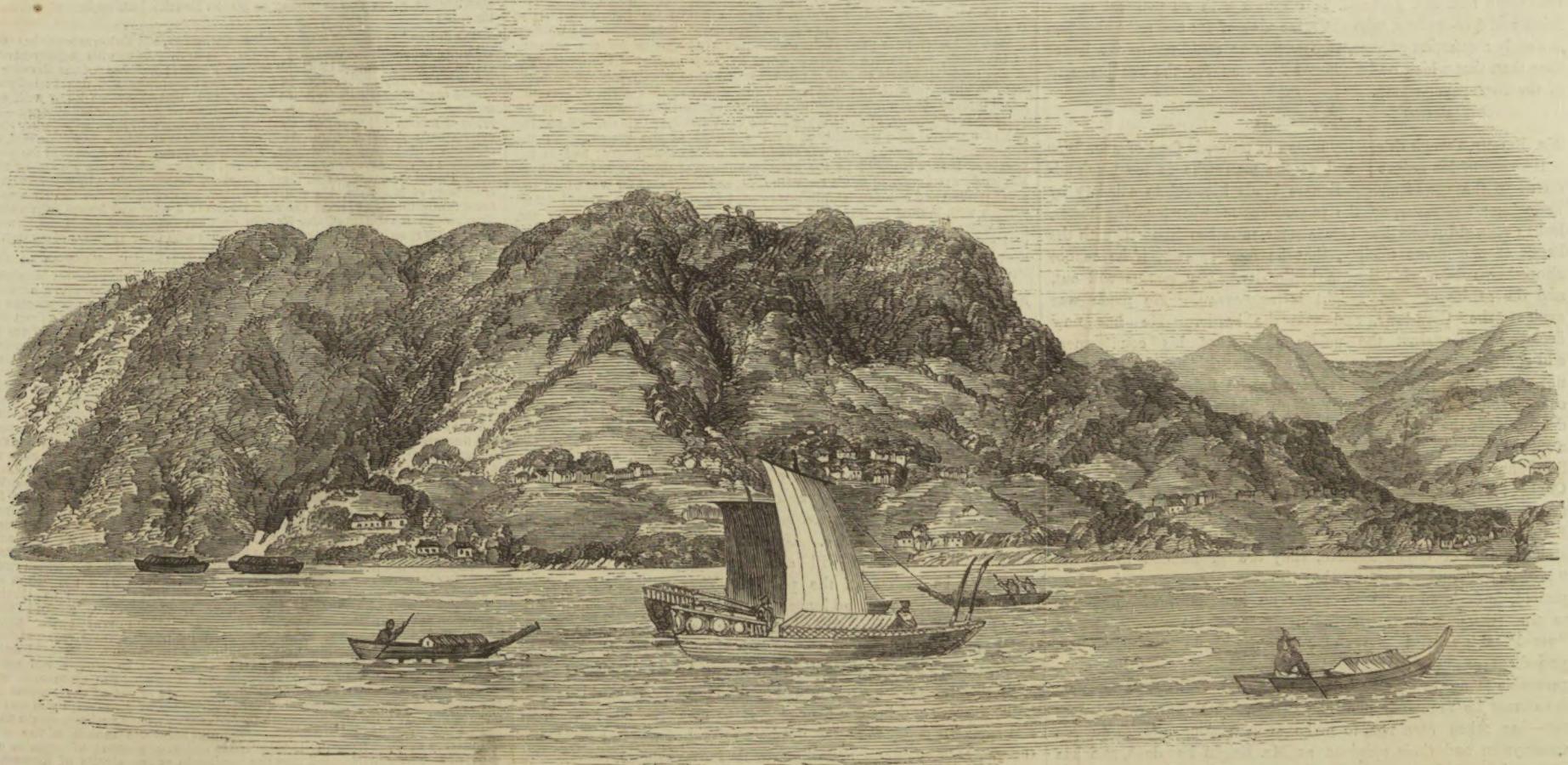
as it is by climate and soil, renders the Japanese to a great extent independent of other countries; and, as everything must be measured by comparison, they, knowing no other world but Japan, judge of their degree of happiness and prosperity by those of their own state around, never having enjoyed European luxuries, excepting the small quantities brought by the Dutch ships.



NAZUMA SIMA ISLAND FOR EXERCISE.



JAPANESE COURT OFFICIAL COSTUME.



JAPANESE VILLAGES, IN MAINLAND.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Jan. 28.—4th Sunday after Epiphany. Admiral Byng shot.
MONDAY, 29.—George III. died, 1820.
TUESDAY, 30.—King Charles I. beheaded, 1648.
WEDNESDAY, 31.—Hilary Term ends. Guido Fawkes executed, 1606.
THURSDAY, Feb. 1.—Partridge shooting ends.
FRIDAY, 2.—Candlemas-day.
SATURDAY, 3.—St. Blaise.

**TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 3, 1855.**

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THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1855.

THE Government, having got itself into difficulties, on account of its inability, or that of the Attorney-General, and the Judges of the land, to define what a newspaper is, has resolved to get out of them by changing the law, regulating the Newspaper Stamp-duties. The subject is to be introduced by Mr. Gladstone, by a resolution in Committee of the whole House on Monday next. We do not know what form Mr. Gladstone's proposition will assume, and only allude to the subject at the present time to restate in a few words our own opinion of the matter, as one affecting our interests in as high a degree as those of any of our contemporaries. Some months ago, when the subject was under discussion—prior to its postponement until the present Session—we stated our belief that a very simple alteration would meet all the requirements of the case. Our proposal was that the stamping of newspapers should be voluntary—not compulsory—and that such journals as chose to be stamped, in whole or in part, should enjoy the privilege they sought—paying as now the penny stamp, which should entitle each number so stamped to be transmitted by post as at present. We further proposed that un-stamped newspapers, if sent by post, should either be chargeable as letters, or rejected by the Post-office altogether; and that it should be incumbent on those sending newspapers through the Post-office to have the stamp folded outside, so as to be easily seen by the Post-office authorities. A reconsideration of the subject has not enabled us to suggest any simpler or more satisfactory contrivance, or one that would more effectually promote the interests of all parties, whether the Post-office or the existing newspaper press. It would give the advocates of a cheap press the boon they seek; and would not be unjust towards established journals of any class. We do not think, however, that our plan, or even the total abolition of the Newspaper Stamp, which we do not propose, would give Mr. Milner Gibson, and the friends of what they call a "free" press, the advantage of cheapness. Of itself, the modification or abolition of the Stamp-duty will, we think, accomplish little or nothing in the direction of cheapness; but, if either were accompanied by the repeal of the Excise-duty on paper, it is possible, if not highly probable, that the price of newspapers might be so greatly reduced as to lead to a complete revolution in that branch of literature. We are not aware, however, that Mr. Gladstone contemplates any such change at the present moment. If he do, the sacrifice of revenue, though considerable, would not be embarrassing. The Excise-duty on paper is a tax on the raw material of many important branches of industry and commerce. It not only affects newspapers, but Literature of every kind; and not only Literature, but a vast variety of trades and manufactures employing many thousands of people—as the inhabitants of Birmingham, Sheffield, Manchester, Glasgow, and other large towns have more than once testified in memorials to the Government. The Paper-duty, as regards the commercial principle involved in its abolition, may be considered doomed. Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli, in common with all political economists and free-traders, take the same view of it; and as its abolition is simply a question of time, we imagine he could not have a better time than that which he has himself chosen for the readjustment of the Newspaper-stamp.

MR. BRIGHT, though ostensibly a man of peace, is fond of war. War is the bent of his nature; and as the man who is too much addicted to the use of strong liquors binds himself to sobriety by becoming a teetotaller, so the pugnacious member for Manchester, lest he should become too quarrelsome, swathes himself with the bands of the Peace Society, that he may repress, if he cannot altogether subdue, his innate bellicosity. But genius will out, and the genius of Mr. Bright is aggressive. He made war against the Corn-laws, and won the battle. He has now declared war against the public opinion of his countrymen, and against the press, as its exponent. But this new battle he will not win; although we must confess that he fights it] with great courage, and displays the sturdy limb, the brawny fist, and the deep chest of the practised gladiator to no small advantage. What a splendid soldier the world might have had in Lieutenant-General Sir John Bright, if Mr. Bright had not unfortunately been a Quaker! In his war against the press, the people are no longer to be called the people. For, presuming to disagree with Mr. Bright and Mr. Cobden on the merits of the Emperor of Russia and the duty of Great Britain, they are proclaimed to be the "populace;" and the press, that was formerly so courted and so praised, is declared to be no longer an instructor, which appeals to the reason and the common sense of the people, but a "venal" thing, and a pander to the basest passions and prejudices of "the populace!" Mr. Cobden—who is the more peaceable man of the two, although he believes war may sometimes be necessary and honourable, which Mr. Bright does not—has taken care not to make such violent attacks on his countrymen and their opinions as Mr. Bright has done, and has managed to give his own view of the case, without throwing dirt at all who disagree with him. Mr. Bright, who possesses more

vigour, and less compunction, and who disputes as an athlete fights, with no other object than to hit hard, will not give his opponents credit either for sagacity or for honour. Amongst the newspapers which were the objects of his vituperation, at the recent tea-meeting at Manchester, he particularly selected the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS. We quote his attack in full:—

has insulted us. Those journals can vindicate themselves—if vindication from such an assailant be necessary. We will simply remind both him and Mr. Cobden that it was the press which made them what they are—or were. Happily, it does not need the press to unmake them; for they spare it the trouble, by destroying their own reputation more rapidly and effectually than the press could do it for them.

RESIGNATION OF LORD JOHN RUSSELL.—On Thursday it was announced that Lord John Russell no longer held office, having tendered his resignation to her Majesty, which resignation is believed to have been reluctantly accepted. For the proceedings consequent upon this event we refer our readers to our Parliamentary Report.

THE COURT.

The event of the week in Court life has been the visit of the Earl of Aberdeen to Windsor Castle on Wednesday, charged with the important duty of announcing to her Majesty the resignation by Lord John Russell of his seals of office as Lord President of the Council. It is thought probable that the political exigencies of the moment will have the effect of hastening the return of the Court to London.

On Tuesday morning the Prince Consort travelled to town by the South-Western Railway, and presided at a meeting of the Governors of the Wellington College. The other Governors present were the Earl of Derby, Sir Howard Douglas, and the Rev. G. R. Gleig. The meeting, which was held at the New Palace, Westminster, broke up a quarter past one o'clock, when his Royal Highness returned to Windsor. Major-General Simpson had the honour of dining with her Majesty in the evening.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa was stated to be seriously indisposed at the date of the latest accounts from Sardinia.

The Earl and Countess of Derby and family have arrived in town from Knowsley.

The Earl of Caledon is reported to have been seriously indisposed at his seat in Ireland.

The Right Hon. B. Disraeli and Mrs. Disraeli have arrived at Grosvenor-gate from Wynyard, where they have been on a visit to

The first meeting of the Fox Club will take place at Brooks's this evening (Saturday). A longer meeting is imminent.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Rectories*: The Rev. S. C. Mason to St. Clement Danes, Westminster; Rev. J. W. Millard to Shimpling, near Diss; Rev. T. Miles to Stockton, near Heytesbury; Rev. H. W. Long to Whaddon, near Trowbridge; Rev. W. W. Ellis to Magdalen Laver, near Chipping Ongar. *Vicarages*: The Rev. C. Smith to Tarrantion, near Ledbury; Rev. H. I. Blackburne to Rostherne, in the county of Chester; Rev. R. Mackell to Marton in Cleveland; Rev. S. King to Cantley, Yorkshire; Rev. G. Alexander to Woodford, Northamptonshire; Rev. J. Best to Kirk-Oswald, Cumberland; Rev. C. Porter to Raunds, Northamptonshire; Rev. P. Smith to Grinton, Yorkshire; Rev. W. Speke to Skenfeth, Monmouthshire; Rev. J. Wallace to Wellow, near Bath. *Incumbencies*: The Rev. J. Harman to St. James's, Enfield; Rev. J. M. Clarke to Christ Church, Forest-hill, Sydenham; Rev. R. F. Ozanne to St. Matthew's, Guernsey; Rev. G. Thompson to Leigh, near Sherborne.

TESTIMONIAL.—A copy of Baxter's comprehensive Bible, with a purse of fifty sovereigns, was presented to the Rev. William Duncan Long, M.A., Incumbent of St. Paul's, Bermondsey, by the congregation of St. John's Episcopal Chapel, London-road, Southwark.

AN IMPORTANT CABINET COUNCIL.—A Cabinet Council (summoned to meet at two o'clock) was held on Wednesday afternoon at the Foreign-office. The Ministers present were the Earl of Aberdeen, the Lord Chancellor, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Duke of Argyll, Viscount Palmerston, the Earl of Clarendon, Sir George Grey, the Duke of Newcastle, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir James Graham, Sir Charles Wood, Earl Granville, the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, and Sir William Molesworth. The Council broke up at ten minutes past five o'clock, and the Earl of Aberdeen immediately left London for Windsor, to have an audience of the Queen.

RATHER UNUSUAL.—A letter from Vienna, of the 1st, asserts a fact which, if true, shows that Russia is far from intending to make any concessions, and that she is even preparing for breaking off all relations with Austria. It states that the hotel of the Russian Embassy at Vienna is advertised to be let in April, and that its present occupant does not appear to be looking out for other quarters.

The new-born daughter of the Countess of Trapani was christened on the 9th at Naples, and received the names of Maria Theresa Ferdinand Immaculate-Conception Sabatia Luciana Philomena; the Queen of the Two Sicilies being her sponsor.

BARON BRUCK'S SPEECH.—The *Post* correspondent at Constantinople gives the following as Baron Bruck's late speech at Constantinople:—

The Sultan has resisted a most unjust aggression, and his brave army has most valiantly defended the territory of their fathers. In this his Majesty has received the ready support of the Maritime Powers; and has not the Emperor of Austria his army so concentrated that it shall promptly and determinedly act should our last exertions for peace be rejected? One thing we know well, and in it we may rejoice, come peace when it will—before or after the struggle—the pride of Russia will have been subdued. Yes; thus will it be, and Turkey shall enter upon a new era. Henceforth the prejudices of race will be removed, all religions will be freely exercised, right will triumph over force, and the great resources of commerce and industry be developed. Happy am I to know that the Sultan is resolute upon all these important matters; aided by a devoted and able body of Ministers, his will be the privilege of fixing his mighty empire more firmly than ever, upon the sound basis of a wise and liberal administration. Such a solution of the Eastern question (exclaimed the Baron, in concluding his speech) will be truly in accordance with the civilisation of our day.

THE VARIOUS ROADS INTO THE CRIMEA.—In reference to the statement, that Perokop is not the only road by which Prince Menschikoff could receive reinforcements, the *Kreuz Zeitung* enumerates a number of Russian military operations against the Crimea whilst in possession of the Tartars, and in which they gained access to the peninsula from the main land by other roads than along the Isthmus of Perokop. Thus in 1736 Field-Marshal Munich led 70,000 Russians through the Taurian steppe up to the lines of Perokop, where the Tartar Khan was waiting for him. By a feint they got possession of the Tartar forts, and this time marched through into the Crimea, though they subsequently retired for fear of being cut off by the Tartars from their base of operations. In the following year General Lascy, finding the Tartars posted in strength at Perokop, threw a bridge across the narrow strait of Genitschi, which separates the Sea of Azoff from the Siwasch, and thus attained the long spit of land, Zieniska, which runs at a little distance all along the east coast of the Crimea. Hearing, however, that the Tartars had posted themselves at Arabat, where the Zieniska spit of land runs out from the Crimea, he caused the Siwasch to be sounded, and found a spot so shallow as that, by means of fascines, &c., laid on casks, he could venture to lead his infantry across this floating bridge, while his cavalry waded through. After having laid the land waste, General Lascy led his forces back to Russia by way of a projecting headland on the north coast of the Crimea, called Tschongar, which runs up very close to the main land. In the campaign of 1738 the Khan of Tartary occupied all three points—Perokop, that opposite to Genitschi, and that by Tschongar. There was, however, a ford discovered between Perokop and Tschongar which was easily passable when a west wind blew; profiting by a wind from this quarter, the whole army passed over on foot and almost dry-shod. If these data be correct it would be necessary for the Allies to occupy not only Perokop, but the whole north and eastern coasts of the Crimea, if we would prevent the access of fresh reinforcements or cut off the retreat of the Russians from Simpheropol. To cover the sea of Azoff with gun-boats simultaneously with the occupation of Perokop would perhaps attain the same end. The necessity of commanding at least the mouth of the sea of Azoff is evident from the facility there exists at present of supplies of provisions being introduced into the peninsula at the straits of Kertsch; and as a line of retreat the road to Kertsch and across the strait would possess but little value for the Russians, if we were to post any amount of shallow-going gun-boats along the coast and across the straits.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS
TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, JAN. 25.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer.		Mean Tempera- ture of the Day.	Departure of Tempera- ture from the Average.	Degree of Humid- ity.	Direction of Wind.	Melted Snow in Inches.
		Highest Reading	Lowest Reading					
Jan. 19	29.996	27.5	18.0	19.2	- 17.3	83	N.E.	0.04
20	29.819	30.2	19.2	27.0	- 9.7	68	N.E.	0.00
21	29.863	26.1	18.5	22.1	- 14.6	83	N.E.	{ 0.18
22	29.776	31.8	21.0	26.5	- 10.3	90	S.W.	
23	29.855	33.2	22.2	28.3	- 8.6	88	N.E.	
24	30.003	35.7	31.0	32.7	- 4.3	86	N.E.	0.00
25	30.038	37.1	29.9	33.7	- 3.4	87	N.	0.00

Note.—The sign — denotes below the average.

The reading of the barometer decreased from 30.00 inches at the beginning of the week to 29.77 inches by the 20th; increased to 29.87 inches by the 21st; decreased to 29.77 inches by the 22nd; increased to 30.04 inches by the 25th; and decreased to 29.9 inches by the end of the week. The mean for the week, at the height of 82 feet above the sea, was 29.89 inches.

The mean daily temperature was below the average on every day of the week. On the 19th the depression was as great as 17° ; on the 20th, 9° ; on the 21st, 14° ; on the 22nd, 10° ; on the 22nd, 8° ; on the 24th, 4° ; and on the 25th, 3° .

The temperature on the 19th of January, 1838, was, however, lower than the above, and was 17° ; on the 20th of January, 1838, it was as low as 10° —this day was rendered remarkable, Murphy, in his almanac, having predicted it as a cold day. We must go back to 1814 for so cold a day as Jan. 21 in this week; in that year it was 22° , differing by one-tenth of a degree only from that in the above table; in 1829, on Jan. 22, the mean temperature was 23° ; in 1838, on Jan. 23, the temperature was 26° .

The mean temperature of this week was 27.1° , being 9.7° below the average of the same week in thirty-eight years. The mean temperature of the same seven days in the year 1838 was 24° ; this week was the coldest as far as my registers extend, and the past week was the next in order of coldness.

The wind blew generally from the N.E. The amount of water produced from melted snow was 0.2 inch (two tenths of an inch).

The weather has been excessively cold, but fine. Snow has been falling frequently. On January 23 light feathery snow was falling; each particle crystallised, and falling together in light clusters of from a dozen to twenty. At nine a.m. they were falling abundantly; temperature at the time, 27° . The crystals were more arborescent, and larger, than those of last year—less glistening, but spiculae finer.

Lewis Jan. 26, 1855.

JAMES GLAISHER.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—Within the week ending January 20 the births of 779 boys, and of 735 girls, in all 1514 children, were registered within the metropolitan districts. The number of deaths 1549, exceeding the births by 35, which is very unusual, except in periods of epidemic; 779 of the deaths were males, and 735 were females; of the deaths no less than 720 occurred at ages less than 20 years; 224 at ages between 20 and 40; 224 in the next 20 years; 295 at ages exceeding 60 and less than 80 years; and 75 at ages exceeding 80 years. These numbers show an excess in each period of life, but to the greatest extent at ages exceeding 60 years. Those, however, have suffered the least from the coldness of the weather, which has severely affected the health of those whose ages are between 40 and 60 years.

CORPORATION REFORM.—The following amendment was carried on Tuesday at the Court of Common Council by a majority of 59 to 40:

That the recommendations of the Consolidated Committee—amounting to the surrender of the charters, the restriction of the elective privileges of the citizens, by reducing the number of their representatives, the disturbance of the well-known ancient boundaries of the wards, the withdrawal of the power of the livery to elect their officers, and the degradation of the magisterial office—were propositions subversive of the rights and privileges of the citizens, and in opposition to the administration of justice, and to the wishes of those who were most deeply interested.

An oversight was committed, in the neglect of the advocates of the amendment to call for the disposal of the original question (in favour of discussing the propositions of the Consolidated Committee), which thus remains as open as ever to discussion.

VALUE OF LAND IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LONDON.—Notwithstanding the war, it appears that there is not the slightest indisposition on the part of members of freehold land societies to invest their capital on estates on which building operations are sure to be commenced. The Old Ford estate, Bow, which is within the district of the Tower Hamlets, was allotted on Wednesday, at the offices of the Conservative Land Society, and small plots to the value of upwards of £6000 were eagerly selected by members. The allotment of the estate excited much interest. It is close to the Victoria-park; and a new church is about to be erected in its immediate neighbourhood. On the same day the society offered another estate situated at East Retford, North Notts, which found equal favour in the eyes not only of local but of distant shareholders.

FOUR LIVES LOST ON THE ICE IN LONDON.—The ornamental water in St. James's-park, London, being coated over with ice on Saturday last, many persons ventured thereon. That portion opposite to the Horse Guards had been marked "Dangerous" early in the day; but during the afternoon some foolhardy youths crossed the lake to the Wildfowl Island, and, while a number of them were sliding on a treacherous spot, one of the party fell down. The ice broke, and he and three others were in an instant precipitated through the fracture, and, before the officers of the Royal Humane Society arrived, all four sank. The bodies were shortly afterwards taken out of the water, but every effort to restore animation was unsuccessful.

EXECUTION OF BARTHELEMY.—The execution of this man for the murder of Mr. Collard took place on Monday morning. On Sunday he had been engaged in writing letters all day, and declined attending Divine service in the chapel. At ten o'clock at night he went to bed, and slept soundly till four o'clock the next morning. He was closely watched day and night, as he had held out a determination that, as he was tired of life, if the law was not executed on him, he would execute it on himself. He had been visited by a Catholic priest, who he said "had the good taste not to speak of religion to him." At eight o'clock on Monday morning he was visited by the Sheriffs, the Rev. J. Davis, the Chaplain of Newgate, Abbé Roux, a Catholic priest, and others; and in reply to the officers he said he had nothing to communicate. "I have," he said, "written to my father and friends, and I have given the letters to the governor." After leaving his cell he strode up the scaffold with an unflinching tread. Ten thousand persons had assembled to witness the execution; but the sight of this vast multitude failed, as everything else had failed, to move him. Whilst on the scaffold he asked Calcraft to do his work as quickly as possible. At the given signal the bolt was withdrawn, Barthélémy fell, and died without a struggle. The body was removed to the cell where an hour before he was in perfect health. A cast of his face was taken, and subsequently the corpse was buried in the precincts of the gaol. The motives which prompted Barthélémy to the commission of the murder are still involved in mystery. There has been no confession beyond a statement which he volunteered to Mr. Davis, that the young woman who accompanied him to Mr. Moore's house was the illegitimate daughter of a Catholic priest, who was to receive money from Mr. Moore. (Some political subjects connected with the French Government were mentioned in connection with this money). He denied that he took the formidable weapon found in Mr. Moore's back parlour with him to the house, and asserted that it was used by Mr. Moore for business purposes. Mr. Davis reports of him that he was the hardest criminal with whom he ever had to deal.

DOCK LABOURERS FOR THE CRIMEA.—On Tuesday fifty of the men selected by the Government agents from the London Dock labourers to go out to Balaclava, to assist in unloading the transports as they arrive out from England, and in warehousing the stores, went before the authorities to be finally approved. The men, having been medically inspected and passed, signed articles for 4s. per diem and rations, and the foremen 7s. and rations, with free passage out and home; each man received a bounty of £11 to provide himself an outfit, and was told to hold himself ready to embark at forty-eight hours' notice. Mr. Goodman, of 3 Warehouse, London Dock, goes out as head foreman over these men, and one of the Customs landing-waiters as superintendent. They are expected to sail in the Canadian screw-steamer, from Portsmouth, early next week.

THE RETRIBUTION, 28, paddle-wheel steam-frigate, arrived at Spithead on Tuesday night from the Crimea and Malta. She has brought home 49 invalided and wounded soldiers, who were landed next morning, and conveyed to the Military Hospital at Portsmouth. Lieutenant Cator, 68th Light Infantry, who is wounded, came home by this ship. The Retribution bears very strong proof of the severity of the treatment she received at Sebastopol, during the attack on the forts by the English and French fleets. Her mainmast is quite gone, having been knocked away by a shell, whilst her rigging is almost entirely destroyed. Her hull also has marks of shot and shell in several places. The Retribution made the voyage from Constantinople to Spithead in twenty-one days, including her stoppage at Malta.

Jane Powis, a pauper belonging to the City of London Union, has been compelled to refund to the parish authorities the enormous sum of nearly £250, invested in the Three per Cent Consols. She had been in the receipt of out-door relief for the last ten years.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

THE QUEEN OF SARDINIA.

MARIA ADELAIDE, Queen Consort of Sardinia, was the eldest child of the Austrian Archduke, the late Renier Joseph, Viceroy of Lombardy, by his wife (who is still living), the Princess Mary, sister of the late Charles Albert, King of Sardinia. Maria Adelaide was born the 3rd June, 1822, and was married the 12th April, 1842, to her first cousin, Prince Victor-Emmanuel, who succeeded his chivalrous father on the throne of Sardinia, the 3rd April, 1849, and who is, as Victor-Emmanuel II., the now reigning Monarch. By this union Queen Maria Adelaide leaves three sons, viz., the Prince Royal of Sardinia, and the Dukes of Aost and Montferrat; and two daughters, the Princesses Clotilda and Maria.

Queen Maria Adelaide died on the 20th instant, at Turin, of puerperal fever; the immediate cause of her death being the shock she sustained at the news of the demise of her Royal mother-in-law, the Queen Dowager, to whom she was devotedly attached.

Her own demise—young and in every way admirable as she was—the darling—for so they called her—of the people of Sardinia—has caused universal public grief throughout the realms of her husband; the sympathy has extended over Europe. The King's grief is said to be terrible; and, in the midst of the present troubled state of Sardinian politics, this double loss of mother and wife has revived all the afflictions of his gallant and right royal house.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR JAMES DENNIS, K.C.B.

The death of this gallant officer, at the age of seventy-eight, occurred on the 14th inst., at 69, Pall-mall. Sir James entered the Army so far back as September, 1796, and served with the 49th on board H.M.S. *Monarch* at the battle of Copenhagen, being wounded in both hands and confused. In the last American war he was actively engaged, taking part in the battle of Queenstown, the storming of Fort George, the action at Stoney Creek, and the conflict of the Rapids at Hooper Creek. In 1843 he commanded a division at Maharajpore, and for his gallantry on that occasion received the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Bath. Sir James Dennis was the son of John Dennis, solicitor, and married in 1801 Miss Lawton, daughter of Hugh Lawton, Esq., of Cork.

LADY GORE BOOTH.

CAROLINE SUSAN, wife of Sir Robert Gore Booth, Bart., M.P., died on the 16th inst., in Merrion-square, Dublin. Great has been the mortality of late in her Ladyship's family. It is but a short time since we recorded the decease of her brother, Mr. Wyndham Goold, M.P. for Limerick—immediately after an uncle, Mr. Michael Goold, died in London; and within the present month a sister-in-law, Lady Anna Maria Monsell, sank under the effects of a comparatively brief illness, at St. Leonards. Lady Gore Booth was second daughter of the late Thomas Goold, Esq., of Dublin, a Master in Chancery. She became, 2nd April, 1830, the second wife of Sir Robert Gore Booth, Bart., of Lisadell, and by him leaves two sons and three daughters. Of the former, the elder, Robert Newcomen, is a Lieutenant in the 4th Light Dragoons.

SIR THOMAS FRANKLAND LEWIS, BART., M.P.

THE Right Hon. Sir Thomas Frankland Lewis, whose death occurred on the 22nd inst., at Harpton Court, Radnorshire, was the only son of John Lewis, Esq., of Harpton Court, by his second wife, a daughter of Admiral Sir Thomas Frankland, Bart. Thomas Frankland Lewis was born in London, in 1780, and was educated at Eton, and at Christ Church, Oxford. He was Lieutenant-Colonel of the Radnorshire Militia from 1806 till the end of the war, and, for more than a quarter of a century, during his subsequent laborious career, has filled a succession of public appointments. He was Commissioner of Inquiry into the Irish Revenue in 1821, and into that of Great Britain and Ireland from 1822 to 1825; he was then made First Commissioner of Inquiry into Education in Ireland. In 1827 he was Secretary to the Treasury, and he was Vice-President of the Board of Trade in 1828. He was Treasurer of the Navy in 1830, Chairman of the Poor-law Commission from 1834 till 1839, and a Commissioner to inquire into the Turnpike Outrages in Wales in 1843. He has represented in Parliament successively Beaumaris, Emrys, and Radnorshire; and Radnor, for which he was M.P. at his death. He was made a Privy Councillor in 1828, and was created a Baronet the 27th June, 1846. He married first, the 11th March, 1805, Harriet, fourth daughter of Sir George Cornewall, Bart.; and secondly, the 15th October, 1839, Mary Anne, daughter of Captain John Ashton, of the Royal Horse Guards. Sir Thomas, by the former lady, who died the 11th August, 1838, leaves issue two sons, George Cornewall Lewis and the Rev. Gilbert Frankland Lewis. The elder, now Sir George Cornewall Lewis, who succeeds as second Baronet, has married Maria Theresa, sister of the present Earl of Claremont, and relish of Thomas Henry Lister, Esq.

THE REV. S. W. WARNEFORD, LL.D.

THIS venerable and munificent divine died at his Rectory, Bourton-on-the-Hill, on the 11th inst. Dr. Warneford was principally known as a Christian philanthropist. His donations in furtherance of public charity have been very great; in fact, such in number and extent as to have embraced colonial as well as domestic gifts—assistance to Scotch and Irish as well as English institutions, hospitals—particularly to the Queen's College Hospital, Birmingham—and to infirmaries, medical schools, and colleges, parochial schools for youth and infancy, and almshouses; while the clerical elemosinary department of London has largely partaken of his benefactions. To the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (in addition to former gifts) he has left £2000, and the same to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. His benefactions were all done in his lifetime; they were donations *inter vivos*; he left them not to the casualties of life nor to questions of their legal validity. He was his own executor and superintendent, and in some degree the director of his own works, and all this in the full vigour of health and strength of mind and body. Very few have expended with such studious selection of purpose, such energetic and self-denying devotion, a sum which has amounted to at least £2000. The donor of all this, Samuel Wilson Warneford, was born in 1768, at Sevinghampton, near Highworth, in North Wilts. His father, the Rev. Francis Warneford, was eldest son of Richard Warneford, D.D., Vicar of St. Martin's, Coney-street, York, and sub-chantor of the cathedral of St. Peter's, and known as the author of two volumes of sermons. His mother was Catherine, daughter of Samuel Calverley, an opulent drug-merchant of Southwark, who resided at Ewell, in Surrey. At the usual age Samuel Wilson Warneford went to Oxford University, where he entered Pembroke College. In October, 1796, he married Margaret, daughter of Edward Loveden Loveden, Esq., M.P. (afterwards Edward Frye Pryse, Esq.), of Buscot, near Faringdon, and a few years after became a widower. He leaves no issue. In 1809 Dr. Warneford (who took his degree of LL.D. about the same time) was made Rector of Lidiard Millicent, in Wilts—a prebend valued at £500 per annum; and in the following year he succeeded to an advowson of £755 per annum; but he was never ambitious of ecclesiastical distinction. A considerable provision having been made for younger children, under the marriage settlement of the doctor's father and mother, and his wife's fortune having devolved upon him on her decease, it may be easily supposed that the Doctor's income soon accumulated far beyond the requisite expenditure of a person of his delicate health and retired habits. It was this that suggested to Dr. Warneford the pious design of devoting as he did, even while living, almost his all to works of charity. The family of Warneford is the most ancient of those in North Wilts which have retained any of their original possessions, and which are traced from the period of the first Crusade.

WILLS AND PERSONALITY.—The Rev. G. H. Peel, of Great Marlow, has left personalty estimated at £30,000; the Rev. Charles Lucas, of Devizes, £30,000; the Rev. E. Page, late Rector of Bawdrip, Somerset, £12,000; Mrs. E. Slaughter, of Southampton, £20,000; Lady Brunel, £18,000.

BEQUESTS.—Miss Millicent Hall, of Albany-street, Regent's-park, and of Hayes, Kent, has bequeathed £2000 to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts; £1000 reversion and £100 immediate for extending the Colonial Bishoprics; £2000 to the Orphan Asylum, Regent's-park; and £100 to the Clergy Orphan Asylum.

SWEDEN PREPARING FOR WAR.—Orders have been given for placing the entire Swedish army upon a war footing. The measure is to be executed with the greatest promptitude, as it is required to have the troops ready to march.

CHRISTIAN EVIDENCE IN TURKISH COURTS OF LAW.—Since the promulgation of the firman for admitting before the tribunals the evidence of persons of all creeds, two cases have occurred in Damascus which show in the clearest possible manner that the principle contained in the new law can easily be carried out. The first case related to Jews, and the second to Christians, and in both the Mussulman accused was condemned. In the second case a custom-house officer had insulted and assaulted the Superior of the Lazarists. The Mussulman denied the charge, and the offence could not have been proved but for the evidence of Christians, who alone witnessed the affair. The examination into the matter took place in presence of an interpreter attached to the French consulate; and the tribunal, after hearing the evidence, condemned the defendant to three months' imprisonment.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

This week has produced a remarkable proof that our Newgate Last Dying Words and Confession Poetry has not improved or altered, indeed, in any way since the times of Dick Turpin and Governor Wall. We have before us, while we write, the penny broadside which Grub-street has given us on the execution of Barthélémy, on Monday last. We have the same artless way of telling a story, with the same rough lines and still rougher rhymes common to the Catnach school of Old Bailey poetry. What is still more remarkable, the very cuts are the identical blocks of bygone times. The view of the dangling murderer, of St. Sepulchre's Church, and Newgate itself, is one that has done like duty on many other hanging occasions. The female costume of the cut is in vogue long before (to use Mr. Thackeray's expression) Plancus was Consul. Stranger still, the cut which represents the murderer shooting Mr. Moore is the actual ballad-block of Bellingham shooting "Mr. Perceval in the lobby of the House of Commons! We may yet see it reproduced on an occasion of the same kind. The identical woodcut of Tarlton, the famous clown, who drew tears of delight from the eyes of Queen Elizabeth, was in use in Grub-street between 1580 and 1620, or nearly two centuries and a half.</p



FRENCH CACOLETS CARRYING ENGLISH WOUNDED, BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.

THE FRENCH AMBULANCE MULES CARRYING THE ENGLISH WOUNDED.

THE melancholy scene depicted in the above Sketch is one of very frequent occurrence in the Crimea. The want of ambulances for the sick and wounded in the English Camp—indeed, the want of horses and mules to perform any kind of service whatever—has rendered it necessary for our troops to apply to the French for aid; and we are glad to learn that it has always been given promptly and heartily by our noble-minded allies. A letter from "the Camp," of January 4, says:—"The French took down our sick again this morning on their ambulance mules, and General Canrobert has ordered that the mules return, laden with provisions, to the dépôt at head-quarters." Two days previously we see it stated, in another letter, that 1600 hands were employed in bringing up provisions to the

English Camp. The huts had arrived about the beginning of this month; no less than 500 of them were "in store at Balaclava," but there were no means of conveying them to the Camp. There had been some talk of the soldiers carrying the planks from the port to the Camp, a distance of fourteen miles; but that was declared to be impossible, and the Horse Artillery were to be devoted to that purpose.

THE GREAT CEMETERY AT SCUTARI.

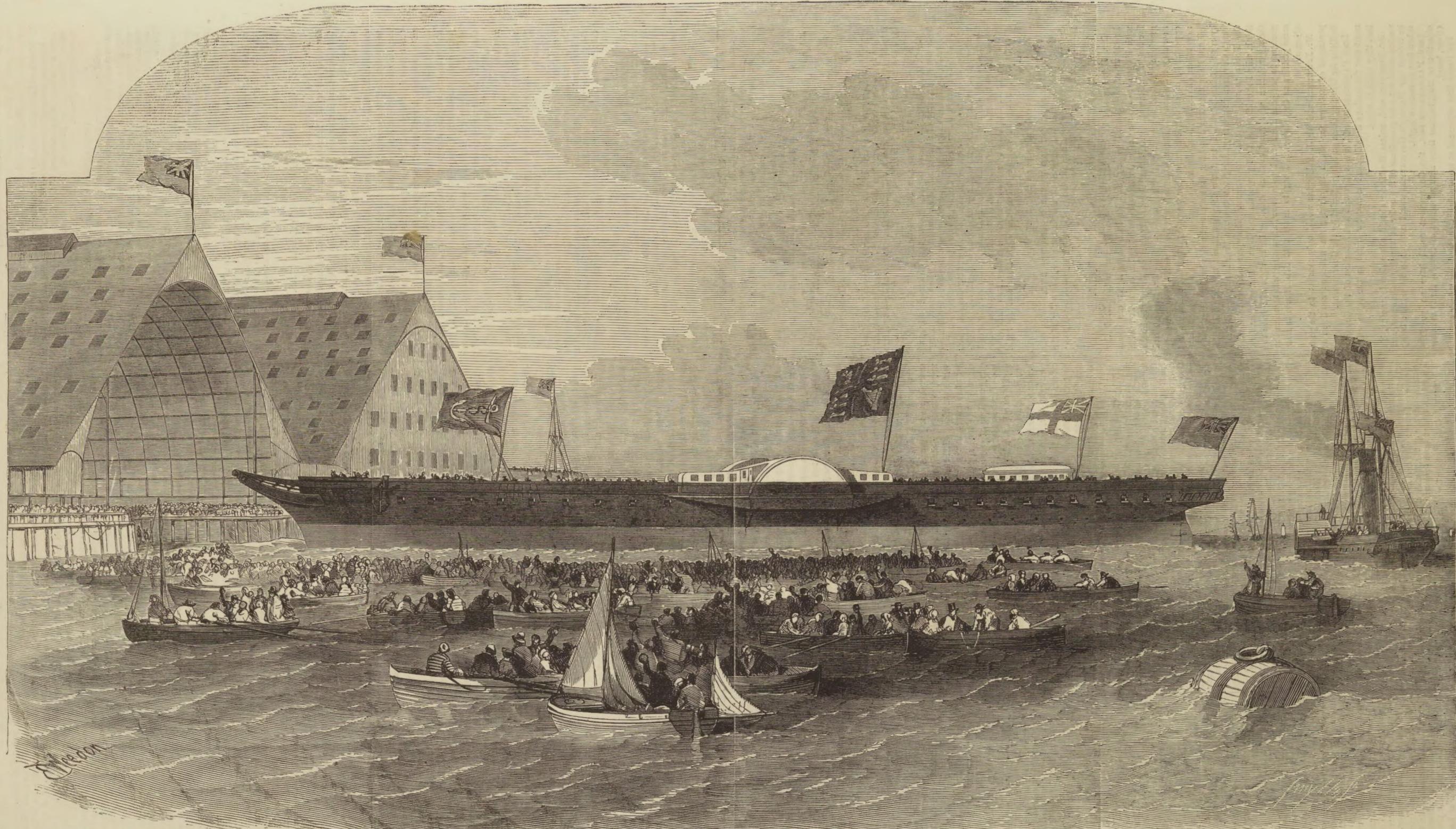
SCUTARI, the largest of the suburbs of Constantinople, is distinguished by its mosques and picturesque cemeteries, which present a sombre contrast to the busy streets of the city.

The Burying-ground is the most extensive, the most beautiful, and the

most celebrated or any in the capital or the Ottoman Empire. The soil of Scutari is regarded with great veneration as the consecrated ground of Asia, whence the founder of the Ottoman dynasty sprung, and, spreading his doctrine with the sword, marched onwards to Europe. On this account these groves of tombs are richer in monuments of illustrious and distinguished men than any of the cemeteries of Constantinople or the adjoining villages. One tomb in the midst of the crowd always attracts the attention of the traveller. A canopy, supported by six columns, marks the resting-place of Sultan Mahmoud's favourite horse. According to Murray's "Handbook for Travellers in the East," if an accurate census of the Turkish population could be obtained, it would probably be found not to exceed the twentieth part of the tenants of this single cemetery. The accompanying View of the most picturesque portion of the ground is from the Sketch-book of one of our Artists. It possesses a melancholy interest in association with the sad events of the war in the East.



THE GREAT CEMETERY, AT SCUTARI.



LAUNCH OF HER MAJESTY'S NEW YACHT, "THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT," AT THE ROYAL DOCKYARD, PEMBROKE.

THE launch of a new Steam-Yacht for her Majesty's service, in place of the *Victoria and Albert* (which last year was added to the fleet for general purposes, under the name of the *Windsor Castle*), took place on Tuesday, the 16th inst., from the Royal Dockyard of Pembroke, with the usual ceremonies, in the presence of an immense assemblage of spectators. Her building was commenced in May last year, under the name of the *Windsor Castle*; but, in August last, her Majesty desired it should bear the name of the old yacht, the *Victoria and Albert*; and the vessels accordingly changed names. This ship, which is nearly as long as the great *Himalaya* steamer, is built on the diagonal principle, so as to combine lightness and strength, chiefly of mahogany and East India teak. Her decks are laid with Canada fir planks; there are water-tight bulkheads near the State cabins; felt is laid between the beams and deck to deaden sound. The whole space from the

paddle-boxes aft is devoted to the accommodation of Royalty. On the upper deck is a large dining-room, 24 feet by 17 feet, glazed all round, and commanding an uninterrupted view to sea, and over every part of the weather-deck. From the interior of this saloon or hurricane-house a staircase descends to the main-deck, where the Royal apartments are situated.

The state-cabin is 21 feet by 17 feet, and the Royal bed-chamber 19 feet by 14 feet, with a dressing-room at each end. The cabins are thoroughly ventilated, by means of pipes passing up through the ship's sides and terminating at the gunwale upon deck. On the orlop-deck beneath is situated the Royal nursery, and other cabins, for the use of her Majesty's suite. The fore-part of the vessel will be devoted to the berths of the officers and crew.

The launch took place about four o'clock in the afternoon; and, in spite of the threatening weather, so much interest was attached to the launch of the beautiful boat that the crowd almost rivalled the one present at the launch of the *Wellington*.

It was hoped, when the vessel's keel was laid, that her Majesty would have been present at the launch, and that it would have been at a better season of the year; but the events since May dissolved the first impression, and the slip being required for laying down the new line-of-battle ship *Alma*, the Royal Yacht has been prematurely launched in a rather unfinished state.

The abilities of Mr. O. W. Lang, the master shipwright at Pembroke, and the designer and builder of this vessel, are too well known to require any comment. The *Ruby*, *Garland*, *Vivid*, *Banshee*, *Irene*, and many other vessels that have been distinguished for extraordinary speed, have been from his lines; and in the noble and elegant steam-ship whose launch we are recording, the builder has excelled all his former efforts in beauty of model: her lines would warrant the impression that she will be the fastest vessel in the world.

Her dimensions are as follow:—Extreme length over all, 336 feet; length between perpendiculars, 300 feet; length of keel for tonnage, 275 feet; breadth,

extreme, 40 feet 3 inches; breadth, for tonnage, 40 feet; depth of hold, 24 feet; height between floor and beams of main-deck, 7 feet 9 inches; ditto, orlop-deck, 6 feet. Horse-power of engines, 600; burthen, 2342 tons.

The weather on Tuesday was not very favourable for the ceremony, but about the time of manning the vessel the weather began to clear, the setting sun illuminating the interior of the slip in a most beautiful manner; and the launch took place amid the greatest enthusiasm.

The new yacht was named the *Victoria and Albert* by Lady Milford, who arrived at the yard at half-past three o'clock, accompanied by Captain Robert Smart, R.N., the Superintendent of the Dockyard; and there were also present Sir Baldwin Walker, the Surveyor of the Navy; Hon. Captain Denman, the Commander of the Royal Yacht; Captain Crispin, Lord Cawdor, and many distinguished ladies and gentlemen. The whole of the Dockyard arrangements were perfect.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from page 90.)

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The Lord Chancellor took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock. In consequence of the resignation of Lord John Russell there was a very large attendance of the members of the House of Commons in their Lordships' House. The Duke of Newcastle was the only member of the Government present.

CENSURE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Lord LYNDHURST gave notice of his intention, on Friday, February 2, to move the following resolution :

That the expedition to the Crimea was undertaken by her Majesty's Ministers with very inadequate means, and without due caution or sufficient inquiry as to the nature and extent of the resistance to be expected; and that their neglect and mismanagement in the conduct of the war have led to the most disastrous results.

LORD RAGLAN'S LETTER.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted their Lordships that he had received a letter from Lord Raglan, acknowledging the vote of thanks their Lordships had passed to the army under his command. The letter was read by his Lordship, and was similar to the one read in the House of Commons yesterday.

The letter was ordered to be entered on the journals of the House.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH said that, as a noble Lord had given notice of his intention of bringing the conduct of the war under the attention of their Lordships prior to the day on which it had been his intention to do so, he should, under these circumstances, withdraw the notice he had given for Monday next.

RESIGNATION OF LORD J. RUSSELL.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE. My Lords, it has already been announced in the other House of Parliament that the noble Lord who is the leader of the Government in that House has tendered to her Majesty his resignation of the office which he held as President of the Council, and her Majesty has been graciously pleased to accept that resignation. Under these circumstances, on the motion of the Government, the House of Commons consented to adjourn until to-morrow. My noble friend the First Lord of the Treasury, in consequence of that resignation, has gone down to Windsor; and I think your Lordships will agree with me that it will be in accordance with precedent, as well as for the convenience of the House, if your Lordships would follow the example of the House of Commons in this instance, although it may not be essentially necessary, and consent to adjourn until to-morrow. I hope, therefore, those noble Lords who have notices on the paper will consent to postpone them accordingly. I move that the House do now adjourn.

The Earl of WINCHILSEA was understood to decline postponing his motion.

The Earl of DERBY said it would be to his personal convenience, as well as for the convenience of the Peers generally, if the noble Earl would postpone his motion until another opportunity.

The Earl of WINCHILSEA reluctantly gave way to this appeal.

Earl FITZWILLIAM wished to remind their Lordships that they had been informed of the resignation of one of the most important members of the Government—one who held as prominent a position out of doors as in Parliament, and he thought it was at variance with custom, if not with the principles of the constitution, that their Lordships should proceed to act upon the fact without first receiving some explanation of the causes which had led to the resignation.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE: The noble Earl will permit me to interrupt him. The noble Lord to whom he is about to refer has not yet made any statement in his place in the House of Commons; but I have every reason to believe he will make a statement to-morrow night of the causes which have led to his resignation. It would not, therefore, be fair to the noble Lord if the noble Earl were to continue his observations now, and I hope he will see the inexpediency of pursuing the subject at present (Hear, hear).

Earl FITZWILLIAM would of course give way, but at the same time he felt that an event of this description ought not to be communicated to either House of Parliament without any explanation as to what were the grounds of the resignation. It did appear to him that the course they were taking was at variance with the constitution, as the explanation ought to be made at the same time the fact was communicated (Hear).

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE (who was scarcely audible in the gallery) appealed to the noble Earl to withhold his comments for the present. The noble Lord who had resigned his office was the best person to give any explanation of causes which had led to his resignation, and he would not have an opportunity of making any statement until to-morrow.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The SPEAKER took the chair shortly before four o'clock.

Mr. Lushington took the oaths and his seat for Canterbury.

THE ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

Mr. ROEBUCK postponed until Friday his motion for a Select Committee to inquire into the condition of the army before Sebastopol, and into the conduct of those departments of the Government whose duty it has been to minister to the wants of the army.

THE WAR AND THE COLONIES.

Sir G. GREY brought up some papers, by command of her Majesty, and took the opportunity of stating what the contents of them were. They consisted of addresses and resolutions passed by several colonial legislatures and public bodies in several of her Majesty's colonies with reference to the subject of the war in which we are engaged. The address from Canada, which was brought over by Lord Elgin, was the joint address of the Council and National Assembly of Canada, and said that the Legislature of that colony had voted £20,000 towards the Patriotic Fund. Within the last few days he had received from Sir F. Head, the new Governor of the colony, two drafts for £10,000 each, being the amount which the Legislature had so voted (Cheers).

The papers were ordered to lie on the table.

SAVINGS-BANK AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES BILL.

On the motion of the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, the order of the day for the second reading of this bill was read for the purpose of being postponed until Friday.

RESIGNATION OF LORD JOHN RUSSELL.

Mr. HAYTER said he had been requested by the noble Lord the President of the Council to say that he had thought it consistent with his public duties to resign the office he had held in connection with her Majesty's Government. He had also to add that her Majesty had been graciously pleased to accept of that resignation. He (Mr. Hayter) had now only to inform the House that the noble Lord would take an early opportunity of stating the reasons for adopting the course which he had now taken (Hear, hear, and cheers).

Lord PALMERSTON: Sir, after the statement which has just been made by my right hon. friend, I trust the House will not think that her Majesty's Government are trespassing too much on their indulgence if I ask the House to adjourn until to-morrow. There are obvious reasons, I think, why I should make that proposal; and I should hope, therefore, those gentlemen who have motions standing for to-night will have the goodness to postpone them until to-morrow, when they will stand in the same position as they do now. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn.

Mr. Drummond and Sir J. Pakington would only consent to the postponement of motions for which they had given notice on condition of facilities for bringing them on being afforded by the Government.

Lord PALMERSTON said, it was the wish and intention of the Government that the motions should stand to-morrow night in the same order that they stood to-night.

Mr. ROEBUCK said, unless the House should otherwise determine, his motion could not take precedence of the order of the day to-morrow, and he trusted her Majesty's Government would consent to his motion being taken first to-morrow night.

Lord PALMERSTON said, the Government could have no possible objection to that, because there were no orders of the day for to-morrow (Hear, hear).

The House then adjourned at twenty-five minutes to five o'clock.

THE COMING PARLIAMENTARY CAMPAIGN.

(From a Correspondent.)

AN impression seems very generally to prevail that the disturbance which the existence of war invariably produces in all the social systems within its influence, is likely to affect our own political atmosphere, and to impart to it a larger portion of the antagonistic element than has been observable since the great stagnation of party warfare which followed the abolition of the Corn-laws. There is much talk, in political circles, of reconstructed and re-invigorated parties; and it is thought that the present Session will witness some of those Parliamentary conflicts which afford materials to our Macaulays and Martineaus for graphic episodes, but whose utility to the nation a philosopher must fail to detect.

We are well aware that calculation and premeditation have far less share in the production of a political crisis than the world, which likes to believe in the wisdom of its notables, is ordinarily disposed to allow. The wonderful sagacity which, when events are over, is shown to have brought them about, and is extoled for its prescient generalship, is a rarer quality than the writers of histories find it convenient to admit. The artistic effect of the description of the crash of a Ministry, or the carrying a great measure, is so greatly heightened by the concentration of the interest around a pair of hostile champions, riding in their respective whirlwinds and directing their respective storms, that neither writer nor reader likes a more commonplace treatment. Yet, could the true history of such incidents be given, it would be seen that to sudden thought and accidental relations are due very many of the great moves in our political history. With this conviction strong upon us, we are disposed to attach less value to the rumours which assign to the leaders of party a deliberate intention to fight a series of battles with a view to a proposed result. But, at the same time, and while making all allowance for the inevitable restlessness caused by the fact that war is raging almost within telegraphic distance from our coast, we do not think it at all improbable that our Houses of Parliament, and chiefly the House of Commons, will present more scenes of excitement and conflict during the approaching months than have marked recent Sessions.

The Opposition makes no secret of its belief that, though it is not strong enough to rush upon office and hold it against all comers, the present condition of the war, and the general dissatisfaction which prevails in regard to its conduct, would tell in the favour of almost any candidates for office who might promise a change of system. Its leaders consider that, were they now to take office, and instantly address themselves with vigour to the prosecution of the war, the country would not be inclined to eject them on the ground of their unpopular political theories; and that then any fortunate turn in the war such as may reasonably be expected in the coming spring, would be excellent capital in bidding for the future confidence of the nation. Add to this a fact of which the wiser men of the party are not so anxious to make proclamation—namely, that there are a great number of the second-rate members of the Opposition who are almost rabidly eager for office, and who occasionally embarrass their chiefs by ill-timed clamour to be led to battle; and it will be seen that there are reasons for surmising that the ranks on the Speaker's left may make a demonstration at a distant period.

The conduct of the war and the management of supplies has always been considered a legitimate subject for discussion; and it would, indeed, be most absurd that any tangling conventionalities should prevent the representatives of the nation from demanding the fullest inquiry into the most vitally-important questions which can possibly be raised. If the Opposition can succeed in convincing the country that her Majesty's present Ministers are unfit to conduct so vast an affair as a war, and can next persuade it that the Earl of Malmesbury and Sir John Pakington would be fitter guardians of the honour of the nation, they have a constitutional right to do so. But the decision of Parliament ought to be taken on the merits of the question, and not upon any craftily-devised motion for catching votes which do not express opinions. For example, Mr. Bright professes himself hostile to all war. Any war motion which enlisted his vote (and in his reckless self-will he would probably give it where it might do most mischief), would simply be a vote-trap, and unworthy of a party which aspires to rule a great nation. We are the more disposed to insist upon this, because the Opposition leader has already shown skill in framing this kind of device, and because we hold that a Ministry could not do its duty manfully or honourably, that succumbed to any sham majority. If one-half of the Opposition charges against Government be just, Opposition itself will act most unjustifiably and unconstitutionally, if it do not bring the question to one of "confidence" at the earliest opportunity. There is ample field for the antagonists said to be so rampant, and here is a means for the legitimate exercise of party strength.

We have written as bystanders, for our own convictions have already been recorded, and it will, we trust, be remembered how unwilling we have ever been to permit the great interests of a nation to be used as mere counters in the game of parties. So tremendous a fact as a war, in which the blood of thousands is being poured out as water, is too solemn for us to assent to its being discussed except with the gravity it should exact. The Coodles and the Foodles may wrangle for their places, and carry motions of censure and resolutions for papers, and play the rest of the Parliamentary game, when nothing of more consequence than a Coodle or a Foodle is in question. But England is now in mourning for her lost children; and, it may be, in terror for those whom she still calls her own. This is no time for factious squabbles. If the war be mismanaged, prove the fact, and let those who are incapable of duty be thrust from office; but, in the name of a nation's destiny, let us have no mockery of patriotism. Faction is ever contemptible; but faction clamouring and stumbling amid the Crimean graves, would be too outrageous an insult to humanity.

WAR TESTIMONIAL.—It will be remembered by those who read the recent attack on Odessa that Capt. J. B. Dickson, R.N., highly distinguished himself on that occasion, when in command of the gun-boats, for which service he received his promotion to post rank. In addition to this honourable notice, Capt. Dickson has been presented by the crew of his ship, the *Britannia*, with a splendid silver Centre-piece, designed and manufactured by Messrs. E. and E. Emmanuel, goldsmiths and jewellers to the Queen, of the Hard, Portsea, and Portsmouth. The group of figures at the base of the centre-piece personifies Neptune, seated in a car; Hope, leaning on her anchor; and Britannia, with the shield and spear. An ornamental column, designed after the model of the palm-tree, supports a glass dish for fruits or flowers. The three nautical standards of England, France, and Turkey, modelled in full relief, are attached to the pillar. On the angles of the plinth are groups of naval and military "trophies," between which are representations of H.M.S. *Britannia*, in bas-relief, a view of the *Britannia's* rocket-boats firing on Odessa, and an inscription appropriate to the gift. The design is admirably characteristic, and the execution a fine specimen of working in metal.

ASTLEY'S ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE.—TESTIMONIAL.—On Monday, at the conclusion of the morning performance, the members and *employees* of the above establishment presented Mr. and Mrs. W. Cooke with an elegant claret-jug and salver, manufactured by Vaughan and Co., of the Strand; and bearing the following inscription:—"This trifling memento was presented by the ladies and gentlemen of Astley's Royal Amphitheatre to Mr. and Mrs. William Cooke, as a token of the high respect and esteem they entertained for them." Jan. 22, 1855.

A PERILOUS SITUATION.—A French aéronaut, named Buislay, made an ascent at Barcelona, last week, which very nearly closed his ballooning career. When the balloon went up, it took a direction inland, but in a short time got into a current of wind completely opposite, and not long after, when at some distance out at sea, it was seen to descend with great rapidity. The captain of a steamer at anchor in the roadstead at once got under way and stood towards the spot. He then sent a boat to the assistance of Mr. Buislay, who, but for this timely aid, would in a few minutes have been drowned. The balloon has been lost.

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.—The maximum age of candidates for admission into the civil service of the East India Company has been fixed at twenty-three years instead of twenty-two, as previously announced.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

THE NEW MORTAR VESSELS.

On Tuesday the trials of Captain Julius Roberts's plans for mortar-vessels were concluded on board the *Drake*, and terminated in a satisfactory manner. The vessel was returned to the dockyard and carefully surveyed, and it was found that no portion of caulking, putty, or whitewash from the decks or framework had started, and the bolts and ironwork (in the frame) and hull were found to be perfect, after all the severe trials to which they had been subjected, both on shore and on board.

As it is said that the Russian ships which have thrown shells with such mischievous effect into our trenches at Sebastopol were armed with mortars constructed on the principle suggested and tested by Captain Roberts so long since as 1847, an explanation of that principle may be acceptable to our readers.

The mortar, weighing upwards of five tons, oscillates freely, being suspended from a horizontal bar by two wrought-iron arms attached to the trunnions. It is kept at the usual elevation of 42° by an iron band passing round the muzzle and attached to the aforesaid arms. This band is so fitted that when the mortar is not in use it may be removed and the mortar stowed into a recess in the bottom of the vessel, thereby removing the top weight which vessels of so small a tonnage could not well carry on deck in heavy weather. The band is secured in its position by a small chain passing round the trunnions, or attached to a ring screwed into the mortar. The whole system oscillates with the rolling of the ship, so as to secure a constant angle of elevation—an advantage never before attained. But the most important advantage is, that the whole impulsive action is considerably diminished and rendered entirely vertical; the horizontal part, so destructive for vessels on the old system, being entirely removed. Thus four upright pillars support the whole, thereby leaving stowage for five times as much shell and powder, and saving about 25 tons of solid timber in the supports. The experiments on Tuesday were conducted in the midst of heavy snowstorms; and the mortar, which should traverse easily so as to train the mortar in any direction, was frozen in its position. The frosty weather increased the severity of the tests to which the ironwork was subjected, and which it bore in a satisfactory manner. In the first experiments the muzzle-band was made too slight, and broke. It was then replaced, with entire success, by a stronger band, five inches broad and one inch thick, padded, at Mr. Nasmyth's suggestion, with leather. On Tuesday, after the ninth round, the ring by which the muzzle-band is kept in place gave way, having been wrenching round on the previously day by the mortar falling from the crane in the dockyard. This defect was speedily remedied by a little spare chain, and the practice continued up to twenty-five rounds (which exhausted the ammunition) without the slightest derangement in the vessel or the mortar fittings.

Thus has been effected one of the most important modern improvements in naval warfare; and, whatever may be said of the inefficiency of ships' broadsides opposed to stone walls, these engines of destruction, operating at the safe distance of more than two miles, will produce a fearful effect upon the strongholds of our enemies. A large flotilla of these vessels, both French and English, is in process of construction, and Mr. Nasmyth has applied to the Government for permission to mount his huge malleable guns on the same principle.

MILITIA FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN.—It is arranged that fifteen regiments of militia—selected from those most numerous and longest embodied—shall be permitted to volunteer immediately for garrison duty at Malta, Gibraltar, and Corfu. These regiments will release an equal number of the line, either for immediate transmission to the seat of war, or else for the formation of a corps of reserve at Malta, for the lodgment and training of which accommodation is actively preparing, to the extent of 10,000 men. The regiments proceeding to the Crimea will be made up from their dépôts at home to the full force of 1000 men each. The militia regiments will send out six companies each—600 men—leaving at home a dépôt for recruiting and keeping up the available force. It is almost unnecessary to say that no militia officers or soldiers will be required to go to our Mediterranean colonies—even for garrison duty only—unless with their own free will, and that every care and comfort will be provided for their residence in those most agreeable and lively quarters. Everything is arranged, and it is possible that many of them might have already embarked, had not our transports been engaged for the more urgent necessities of the war.

THE SICK AND WOUNDED AT SCUTARI.—The Director-General of the Army and Ordnance Medical Department has been instructed to report to the Duke of Newcastle on the practicability of furnishing periodical returns of the sick and wounded at Scutari, showing the progress towards convalescence in each case. His Grace has also instructed Lord William Paulet, Commandant of the British Military Establishment in the Bosphorus, to appoint a competent person to ascertain from every officer, and, if possible, from every private soldier, who may be admitted into the military hospitals in Turkey, the name and address of his nearest relative or friend, so that, in the event of his death, the fact may be communicated to such person.

TRANSPORT OF CANNON OVER MUD.—The authorities at Woolwich have now under trial a vehicle constructed to meet the great difficulty at Balaklava—the transport of cannon over mud. The cannon is slung under a pole resting between two high wheels, which as they revolve lay down a block or paddle, surmounted by an iron rail, and dovetailing at its extremity with a succeeding block, continuing the line. Thus the carriage lays down its own railway as it progresses, while the sleeper from which it recedes acts as a lever, and lifts up the wheels from the bed of mud. It is found that the carriage will transport the heaviest guns in this way through a perfect slough. There are doubts, however, whether it will answer so well on rocky ground, as during the frost the resistance of the hardened earth drew out some of the bolts from the wheels; but it is thought that some modification of the paddles will overcome this impediment.

THE COAST GUARD.—Returns are being prepared by order of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty specifying the number of seamen fit for active service who have been appointed by the Admiralty, and are now doing duty in the Coast Guard. The returns will show their respective ages, length of sea service, and also the period employed in the Coast Guard. Similar returns are ordered to be made of the men employed in revenue vessels, and of men employed in Custom-house boats. It is stated that this is done with a view to ascertain the number of seamen the Government can command in the spring, when the fleets destined for the North Sea and the Baltic are about to be fitted out.

THE FOLLOWING CAVALRY REGIMENTS WILL PROCEED TO THE CRIMEA EARLY IN THE SPRING, WHEN IT IS EXPECTED THAT EACH WILL BE AUGMENTED TO 900 SABRES, EXCLUSIVE OF TRUMPETERS AND FARRIERS: VIZ., 1ST, 2ND, 6TH, AND 7TH DRAGOON GUARDS, 3RD LIGHT DRAGOONS, 7TH HUSSARS, AND 16TH LANCERS. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE INFANTRY REGIMENTS UNDER ORDERS FOR THE CRIMEA: VIZ., SECOND BATTALION 1ST FOOT, FROM CORFU; 3RD BUFFS, FROM THE PIREUS; 13TH LIGHT INFANTRY, FROM GIBRALTAR; 31ST AND 48TH FOOT, FROM CORFU; 54TH, FROM GIBRALTAR; 71ST HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY, FROM CORFU; 82ND FOOT, FROM EDINBURGH; 91ST, FROM MALTA; 92ND, FROM GIBRALTAR; AND THE THIRD BATTALION OF THE 1ST ROYALS, 60TH RIFLES, AND RIFLE BRIGADE, WHICH ARE NOW BEING RAISED. THOSE REGIMENTS WHICH ARE STATIONED IN MALTA, GIBRALTAR, AND THE IONIAN ISLANDS, WILL PROCEED TO THE SEAT OF WAR AS SOON AS THEY ARE RELIEVED BY THE REGIMENTS OF MILITIA WHICH HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR FOREIGN SERVICE.

ON MONDAY NEARLY 2000 HAIR BEDS AND BOLSTERS, 4000 PAIRS OF COTTON SHEETS, AND ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF BLANKETS, WERE PUT ON BOARD LIGHTERS AT THE TOWER WHARF, TO BE SHIPPED ON BOARD THE TRANSPORTS AT DEPTFORD, TO BE CONVEYED TO THE HOSPITAL AT SCUTARI FOR THE USE OF THE SICK AND WOUNDED. ANOTHER EXTENSIVE SHIPMENT OF CANADA STOVES FOR THE CRIMEA TOOK PLACE FROM THE TOWER ON THE SAME DAY, AS ALSO SEVERAL THOUSAND FEET OF IRON TUBING FOR CHIMNEYS. FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF FIXING, THIS TUBING, WHICH IS EIGHT INCHES IN DIAMETER, IS MADE IN TWO-FOOT LENGTHS. 120,000 WATERPROOF ARTICLES OF DRESS FOR THE ARMY IN THE CRIMEA, CONSISTING OF HOODS, COATS, AND LEGGINGS, HAVE JUST BEEN SENT INTO THE GOVERNMENT STORES BY THE CONTRACTORS. A FURTHER CONTRACT HAS BEEN ENTERED INTO BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE SUPPLY OF 3000 REVOLVING PISTOLS FOR HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

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PRUSSIA AND THE ALLIED POWERS.

The diplomatic correspondence between Prussia and the Allied Powers which has been published this week throws considerable light upon the present aspect of the great European question of peace or war. On the 5th inst., Baron Manteuffel, the Prussian Minister, addressed a letter to Count Arnim, the Prussian Envoy at Vienna, explaining the reasons why Prussia refuses to fulfil the military engagements she entered into with Austria, in virtue of the treaty of the 20th of April. In that despatch the Prussian Minister endeavours to show that Austria is mistaken in supposing that Russia will assume the offensive, if she is not attacked. According to him, Russia is sincerely desirous to make peace, and has "unreservedly accepted the four points as they were proposed to her." And now that negotiations are going on, Baron Manteuffel claims, on behalf of Prussia, that it should be allowed to take part in the Vienna Conference. The right to such a privilege "Prussia does not find on her being a sharer in any stipulation connected with the present Eastern complication, but on her quality of a great European Power, which, by its well-won right, has participated in all the treaties that regulate the legal state of things in Europe."

Count Buol, on the part of Austria, replies to these arguments in a despatch of the 14th inst. He denies that Russia has given any guarantee that she will confine herself to the defence of her own territory, and points to the invasion of the Dobrudja the other day as a proof that Russia has not bound herself to any such conditions. The situation of affairs has not lost anything of that threatening character which the Bund has recognised, and therefore the Imperial Minister intends to propose to the Committees that a motion be made in the Diet that at least one-half of the several contingents shall be made *mobile*, unless the opinion should prevail that it would be more advisable to place the whole of the Federal army in readiness for operations.

The despatch of M. Drouyn de Lhuys, in reply to the Prussian Note, is much sharper in its tone than that of Count Buol, as will be seen from the following analysis, which is almost a verbatim copy of it:—

The Cabinet of Paris establishes that Prussia explains her refusal to mobilise her army—1st, because she does not believe in the imminence of an attack upon Austria by Russia; 2ndly, because the support which she would have to give ought to be preceded by an *entente* between the contracting parties upon the feasibility of carrying out the eventual conventions. Prussia adds, moreover, that there can be the less objection to suspend the execution thereof, because, if it was really necessary to place the Prussian army on a war footing, it could be done within the period fixed upon. The Prussian Government, therefore, is resolved not to change the character of its obligations. The additional article may have extended them, but it has not modified their nature; and Prussia only engaged herself towards Austria to a *defensive alliance*. The two great German Powers, moreover, ought to unite their efforts to obtain the adhesion of Russia to the four points specified in the notes of the 8th of August; and it would be necessary for the realisation of that community of action that Prussia herself should participate in the definition of those first bases of a future peace.

As regards the acts the object of which would be either to consolidate the balance of power in Europe or to modify existing treaties, and which Prussia had signed, her right to participate therein does not depend upon this or that accidental stipulation; it is due to the rank she holds in the world. King Frederick William, to maintain it, will not be deterred by dangers and sacrifices, which the nation would share with as much devotion and energy as patriotism.

Another despatch from M. de Manteuffel (the above is the analysis of that of the 5th of January) brings out in more prominent relief the principal points where [Prussia establishes that, the more she intrenches herself behind the strict interpretation of her engagements by the resistance to the pretension made to extend them against her will, the more, on the contrary, will she be disposed to enlarge them by means of negotiation, provided her position and her dignity as a great Power are respected.

The Cabinet of Paris beholds in the exposé given in M. de Manteuffel's despatches two distinct orders of ideas—the one special to the relations of the Prussian Government with the Court of Vienna, the other concerning the *ensemble* of its position in Europe.

On the first point France is resolved not to interfere in questions which exclusively concern the German Confederation; on the second the Cabinet of Paris is willing to explain itself.

The Cabinet of Paris does not pretend to contest to Prussia the rank she holds. Nay more, during the last two years it has often reminded her of the obligations of that high rank of which she is so justly proud. But it feels it a duty to observe that the quality of great power is permanent—it cannot be cast off when it implies onerous duties, and be resumed when it only offers advantages. Privileges and duties of this importance are absolutely correlative. The one is inseparable from the other. It is not to be supposed that England and Austria take a different view of the case from France. But so much is certain—that France will never allow that a Power which, from its own free will, took not part in the great events which are taking place in the world, shall afterwards maintain a claim to regulate the consequences thereof. The advantages arising from the war are only for the belligerent Powers. And the advantages of the present (essentially moral advantages) consist in the right of participation, in the interests of Europe, in the regulations of peace. Prussia has not done anything as yet for that object. She has refused to proclaim her neutrality. That resolution does her honour. But, in reality, on what side is she? If hostilities continue, will she be with or against the Allied Powers? This is what no one can tell.

Can Prussia reproach France for her confidence in Austria? The lines of conduct have been so different. By a movement which she declares purely a strategic one, Russia evacuates the Principalities; Prussia immediately declares herself satisfied; while Austria, on the very morrow of the day upon which that evacuation is communicated to her, exchanges the notes of the 8th of August with France and England. On the 28th of November Prince Gortschakoff announces the adhesion of his Court to the four points; while Austria signs the treaty of alliance of the 2nd of December with the Western Powers. On the 7th of January Russia accepts the interpretation of the four guarantees; Prussia, fancying the success of her policy complete, rejects the appreciation made by Austria of the treaty of the 20th of April, and refuses to call out her contingent; while Austria spontaneously hastens to recognise that the case provided for by Art. 5 of the treaty of the 2nd of December is realised, that the re-establishment of peace is not assured, and offers to combine her plans of military operations with the Allied Powers.

Is there a wish of maintaining that Austria finds in the alliance of the 2nd of December advantages not shared by Prussia? What are they? This observation of Prussia, doubtless, does not imply an assent; but yet, as a proposition is made to conclude a *Prussian* treaty, beside the *Austrian* treaty, it would be well to explain the exact meaning of the proposition. Was that the object of M. d'Usedom's mission to London? That mission was wrapped up in so much mystery that its real object is not yet known in Paris. But, the more endeavours were made to conceal it, the more were made to discover it. All that has been discovered is, that Prussia exerted all her efforts to prevent the Allies from waging the war upon the vulnerable point of the enemy, and to prevent the passage of their troops through Germany. What did she offer as a compensation? To place a *corps d'armée* on the Polish frontier—that is to say, that Prussia with one hand would turn aside the sword of the Allied Powers, and with the other cover Russia as with a shield. Might one not be authorised to suppose that M. d'Usedom had different treaties in his portfolio, and took out by mistake the wrong one at London—that which was to have been produced at St. Petersburg?

The French Government has not the intention, you may be assured, of hurting the feelings of Prussia. It expresses itself thus in a loyal and sincere expression (*panchement*); and, if it desires its language to be heard at Berlin, it is in the hope to see Prussia at least give up a position in which, if it had been happy enough to see its efforts crowned with success, she would not have been to-day.

THE BLACK SEA TELEGRAPH.—The screw-steamer *Black Sea* left the Wear on Thursday week, with the Balaklava and Varna submarine telegraph cable on board, and Messrs. Newall and Co.'s staff of workpeople, who will be employed to submerge it. She had a fair wind, and has every prospect of a quick run out. She will call at Malta to take up Mr. Liddell, C.E., and Captain Du Cane, of the Royal Engineers, and will then proceed to the Crimea or Varna, as will be most convenient, to submerge the cable. Messrs. Newall and Co.'s managers and workpeople have taken due precaution not to be delayed, as they have taken everything out with them—carts, huts, &c.—for their use while laying down the land portion of their work, and have four non-commissioned officers of the Sappers and Miners with them aboard the steamer, who will be able to work the apparatus when completed. The weight of the four hundred miles of cable is 100 tons, and the contract is stated to be £20,000. The system upon which the Black Sea telegraph will be worked is Morse's, but with an important modification by Mr. Carl Frischén, of Hanover, which has been patented by Messrs. Newall and Co. Morse's apparatus prints messages upon long slips of paper as they are received into the office, and thus avoids the slow process of copying by pencil into slips. Mr. Frischén's invention further extends the usefulness of the system, by making it possible for messages to be sent along one wire from both ends at the same instant of time. Thus a clerk telegraphing at Varna can be receiving, by the same wire by which he is sending his communication, and at the same instant, a message from Balaklava. The single wire, by Mr. Frischén's process, conveys several messages from either end at the same moment; and a clerk can be engaged telegraphing at the time that he is receiving a message. The circumstances under which the Black Sea telegraph is now on board a first-class steam-vessel in its passage out to be submerged are strikingly illustrative of the energy of the English character, when under wise and able direction. Messrs. Newall and Co. only received final instructions from the Government to make the 400 miles of cable on the 15th December. The vessel that now has it on board was on the stocks at Jarrow not half-finished; but by Saturday week she had her coals and stores on board, her crew shipped and ready for sea, had 400 miles of telegraph cable stowed away in her hold, with an infinite number of packages and boxes of clothing thrust into every available corner, for the use of the soldiers in the Crimea, and was in trim to be swung for the purpose of having her compasses adjusted.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

CHARLES LAMB wrote several charming essays about popular fallacies; more learnedly, and scarcely less agreeably, Sir Thomas Browne battered down a whole Sebastopol of "Vulgar Errors;" but both left untouched that greatest of humbugs, the first article of a political economist's creed, that "the supply of any article is equal to its demand." Read the *Times*, or any other newspaper possessing an "own Correspondent" at the seat of war, and judge whether the demand for beef and blankets, drugs and pickles, is not a good deal greater in the Crimea than the supply of these comfortable articles; inquire about the War-office, and discover if the supply of that article which the *Times* calls "Head"—the meaning whereof is a willingness on the part of Government officials to do anything they are not obliged to do—is at all equal to the want of it; and, above all, ask the lessee of a theatre what chance there is that his demand, however energetically expressed, will get for him in the course of a season two or three good original dramas. There certainly never was a time when men of literary talent were less inclined to write for the stage than at present; indeed there are hardly more than three or four writers going whom an intelligent manager could ask to write for him, having a reasonable conviction that their production would not help him down the broad road that leadeth to Basing-hall-street. Not but that plenty of plays are proposed, and even written and sent into managers. Their tables usually tremble under the weight of manuscript. Five-act, two-act, three-act pieces—pieces in verse and in prose—pieces tragical, comical, historical, pastoral, diabolical—pieces, in short everything except *actable*, are found there in profusion. Some years ago I looked over a bale (about the size of a truss of hay) of manuscript plays which had been sent to a manager of my acquaintance. I did not attempt to read them—far from it—that would have occupied half a lifetime, with madness or idiocy at its close; but I cast my eye over some two dozen, and I protest that by no means the worse was a five-act tragedy in blank verse, written by a ballet-girl, called "Devereux the Disowned." The spelling was not good, but worse plays have run a fair number of nights at the Victoria. The most curious part of the business is that you never can argue *a priori*, what manner of man is likely to write a good play. Dramatic writing is altogether a *sui generis* affair—the cleverest men break down upon it. Not very long ago a well-known critic, one who had given much attention to theatrical matters, and certainly a man of taste and talent, had two tragedies damned—utterly, irredeemably damned, within a fortnight—one at the Olympic and the other at the Haymarket. This was really a proud position, and quite subversive of the old saying, "Non bis in idem." What I have written is meant as an explanation and an excuse for the fact that the most intelligent managers of theatres are absolutely compelled to place their chief reliance in translations. Even this melancholy resource now fails them; for Parisian authorship is now by no means as fruitful as it used to be in good plays; or, at least, in plays that can be successfully done into English. The productions, for instance of Emile Augier, or De Musset, or George Sand, however successful in Paris, rarely pay for translation. This being the case, Mr. Kean "tries back" some thirty years, falls upon Casimir Delavigne, poet dear to the Restoration, and brings out, most successfully, an adaptation, by Mr. Bourcicault, of his "*Louis Onze*."

It is less a play than a part written for Talma, who rehearsed it many times, but, for some reason, never performed it. Ligier made the best part of his fame in it at the *Français*; but Ligier never made so much of it as Mr. Kean has done. His performance is, from first to last, an exceedingly fine and well-studied piece of acting—quiet and sustained—not full of "points," as some actors would have made it, playing, like porcupines, alternately smooth and bristling. It is true that a hypercritic might say that Mr. Kean is sometimes hardly worn and decrepid enough for the character of the sick old miserant, but this seems inevitable where energetic words are to be spoken. On the whole, *Louis XI.* is far the best part Mr. Kean has played, but the play itself would have been none the worse if it had been written in prose instead of blank verse, which only courtesy can term poetry.

Revivals in dramatic matters are dangerous things; the world does not stand still, and the habits and manners of one age are so different from those of another that it rarely happens that the applauded play of one century creates the slightest interest in the next. It is all very well to say that wit and passion are eternal, but wit and passion on the stage are not mere mental attributes: Congreve's or Farquhar's *Dorilants* and *Belmours* are as amusing in the library as ever, but the plays in which they are characters would be unendurable on the stage. If, then, the plays of a hundred years ago are unbearable, what chance is there a modern adaptation from the old Greek theatre should be anything better than a solemn humbug? Such a production could only succeed as the means for showing off some wonderful dramatic talent—some Garrick or Kemble; but, however well, as a merely literary work, it may be executed, our present tragic mediocrities can never succeed in making it more than that most hopeless thing, "a respectable performance." Why, if there are two qualities which are notoriously necessary to a play in these days, they are movement and plot—just the two qualities which were never thought of on the Athenian stage. Mr. Spicer thinks otherwise, for he has adapted, or rather founded a play upon, the "*Alecestis*" of Euripides, the Greek Racine. The fault is in the idea, not in the execution; for it would be impossible to bore an audience in better language. *Hercules*, by Mr. Stuart, is a great piece of stage getting-up.

The force of padding can no further go;

and is really worth seeing. However, it is real pleasure to hear Gluck's magnificent music in the choruses. Two more facts about theatres, and then I have done with them for the present. The new two-act comedy produced on Monday, at the Olympic, is by Mr. F. Talfourd, and Mr. Thackeray has promised a play to the manager of the same theatre, which will probably be brought out before Easter. This will be something worth seeing; and it is a compliment to Mr. Wigan that his theatre has been chosen by one of the best of our novelists for the production of his first drama.

It is certain that, considering its acreable contents, there is no great affluence of visitors, just now, to the Crystal Palace—taking the distance and the temperature into consideration, it would be marvellous if there was; still, as it appears that some eight or nine hundred people do go there daily, it may not be uninteresting to say that there is about to be a great change in the management of the Refreshment department. Mr. Horne (who would persist in charging everybody the same price, whether they contented themselves with the simple sandwich, or more ravenously consumed meat, poultry, lobsters, and pastry) has been dethroned; and Mr. Staples, host of the Albion, in Aldersgate-street (dear to City *gourmands*) rules in his stead. The arrangement, too, of the localities for eating and drinking is to be entirely changed. There are to be distinctions—first, second, and third-class Refreshment-rooms which will be separate apartments, so as not to be in view from the Great Aisle of the building. So, henceforth, specimens of British voracity will not be the first thing presented to the stranger's eyes as he ascends from the railway: lobster-salad shall not be discovered lurking beneath the claw of the lion; nor shall the instep of the noble savage be besmeared with irreverent pale ale.

Behind the present refreshment counter (which, if not entirely done away with, will support nothing but cakes and buns—such light cakes as "delight and hurt not") is to be the second-class refreshment-room; at the opposite end of the building, beyond Nineveh and the tropical plants, will be that for the first-class. Here, at least (for the plans are not entirely matured), you will eat à la carte,—cold things, of course, and that only which you happen to fancy. Far down in that still unfinished tail of the building which projects Kent-wards, opposite the railway station, there

is to be a sumptuous divan—a place for newspapers and magazines, as well as cigars and coffee. It is further promised that the coffee shall not be that abominable whitey-brown beverage which, during last year, was concocted in tremendous brass retorts. The situation for the third-class refreshment-rooms—the most important in every point of view, even as regards profit to the entrepreneur—has not yet been quite fixed upon, but will be in some part of the basement story. All this is much as it should be, and gives hopes that there will be some improvement in the management, hitherto so defective, of this fine edifice.

COUNTRY NEWS.

THE MEMBERS FOR MANCHESTER.—A soirée was given to the members for Manchester on Friday evening. Eleven members of Parliament, and about 800 persons in all, assembled in the Corn-exchange—Mr. George Wilson presiding. The speakers were Mr. Gibson, Mr. Cobden, Mr. Bright, and General Thompson. Mr. Gibson reviewed the proceedings of last session, which he characterised as abortive—the Reform Bill wisely abandoned; the Bribery Bill emasculated; and the Jew Bill mismanaged. Next session he hoped to see the newspaper stamp settled. In treating of the war, Mr. Gibson admitted that war is sometimes necessary. The Eastern question cannot be settled by the doctrine of the balance of power; not doubting the sincerity of Russia, he would settle it upon the Four Points. Mr. Bright attributed the war to the passions of the people roused by the press, which he vituperated with great bitterness. It had been said that there would have been no war had Lord Palmerston been in power; but he had no confidence in the Minister who attacked Greece, showed no liberality in the affairs of Hungary, and treated the Queen with disrespect. He said a member of Government had spoken of the army of Russia as composed of 800,000 men, and he characterised the Government as stark staring mad who could with that knowledge send such an army as we had to the Crimea. Mr. Cobden expressed an opinion that negotiations for peace were now going on, and said he had a very great suspicion that the terms of peace were irrevocably passed to Russia and that Russia had accepted them; that those terms implied no loss of territory to Russia; and therefore, of course, not the permanent possession of any part of the Crimea—in fact, that the terms were very moderate. He suspected that the Government, having raised the devil of war, had not the courage to announce to the public the terms on which they sought to lay him at rest. These terms were very well known—they must be known, for the diplomats of Vienna took time enough for the interpretation of their own protocol from the 2nd to the 28th December, but then it must have been fully explained if that were kept back either by this country or France, because orders had been sent out to storm Sebastopol at any cost. If this were done in the interest of a dynasty or a ministry—if blood was to be shed in torrents for the occupation of a town, every street of which was barricaded, and every house converted into a fortress, to be defended by the most determined troops in the world behind such breastworks—we should hear some day that twenty thousand of the Allies had been put *hors de combat*, whilst Sebastopol was delivered to the licence of the soldiery, and every conceivable outrage committed within it that could make it a hell on earth; and if they found, from a comparison of dates, that the negotiations had been protracted for this, then he hoped no ringing of bells, throwing up caps, or preaching from pulpits would ever for a moment shield a Government that had lent itself for any motives whatever to a deed so dark and indefensible. Major-General Thompson afterwards addressed the meeting.

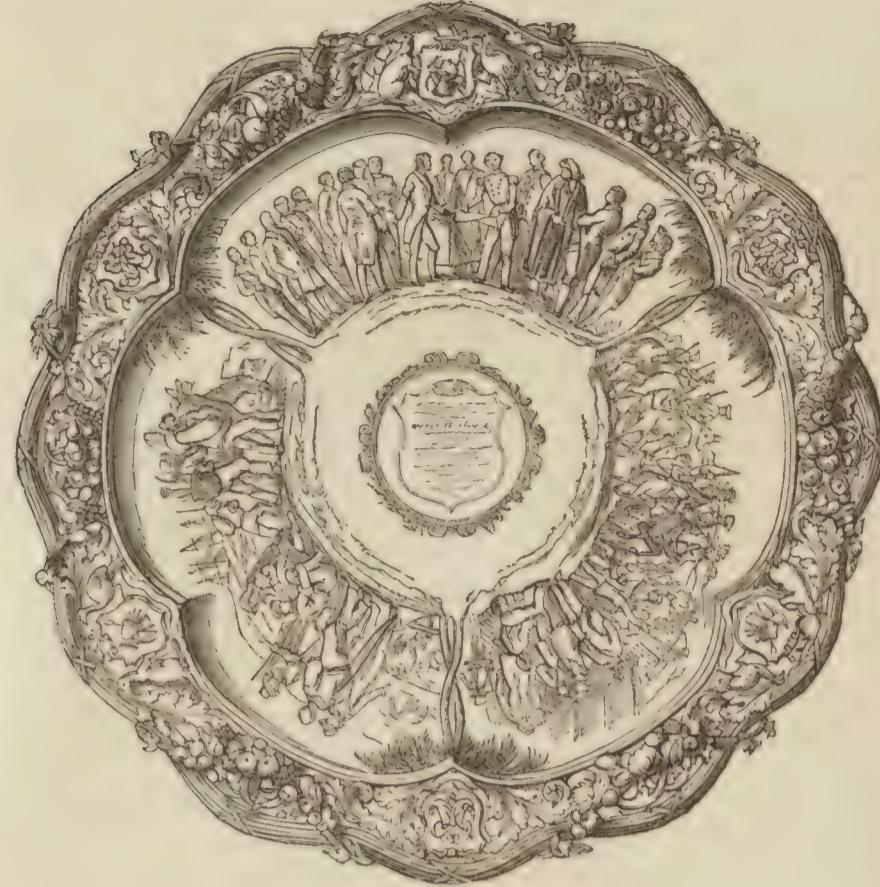
FATAL SNOWSTORM.—During Monday and the two preceding days the southern coast was visited by a violent gale of wind from the north-north-east, and heavy falls of snow. In the height of the storm on Saturday morning a fine barque called the *Janc Boyd*, of Glasgow, from Hamburg, was totally lost on the Margate Sands, with every soul on board. Between eight and nine o'clock the attention of the boatmen was called to a bark of about 400 tons burthen running in from the North Sea. She had a jack hoisted at her fore—a signal for a pilot—but help could not be rendered her at the time. The wind was blowing heavily, with a tremendous sea on, and her situation was at once observed to be most critical. Most of the luggers and hoyelling-boats at Margate were aground, the water being low, and before the tide could flow to float them considerable delay ensued. The progress of the ill-fated bark was watched with much anxiety by some hundreds who thronged the pier. She had got a little to the westward of the Tongue Light, when she missed stays and struck upon the north-east spit of the sands. In a short time the crew were seen on the afterpart of the ship, apparently preparing for the worst. It was impossible for a boat to leave her, and their only chance seemed to be clinging to pieces of the wreck. The sea broke with tremendous force over her. At length the mizenmast went over the ship's side, and then the foremast and mainmast, and in little more than a quarter of an hour from her taking the sands not a vestige of her or any of her crew could be seen. On the tide flowing sufficiently, several luggers were floated and manned by some fifty or sixty boatmen, who proceeded to the scene of the catastrophe. The gale continued with unabated force, and the boats, in getting away, were placed in considerable peril, some of them striking with such violence as to threaten instant destruction. The boatmen, however, kept on through the foaming surf, and, on reaching where the ship had gone ashore, nothing of her or her unhappy hands could be discerned—all had perished and disappeared. On the following day (Sunday) some of the luggers again went out to the scene of the wreck, and picked up one of the barque's boats; the sternboard was also taken into Margate in the course of the day, which led to the discovery of the name. Some portion of her cargo—cases of vases and glass ornaments, and rolls of India matting—has also been recovered. The crew amounted to about twenty-five.

SUNDAY DRINKING IN SCOTLAND.—The existence of "shebeens" in Glasgow is proof of the extent of Sunday drinking. A glance at some of the multifarious modes in which these "shebeens" are carried on, will show what the police have to contend against. In one place, professedly an oyster-shop, a hole has been cut in the roof, through which a bottle of whisky is lowered for customers, and raised and taken away by the police themselves. A similar plan is adopted at another house, which happens to be immediately above a publican's premises. An arrangement has been made with the publican to supply liquor through a trap-door cut through the floor. Whenever the "shebeen" is drained dry, three importunate knocks are made on the floor, and a fresh supply comes up directly by cord lowered for the purpose. In a house in Rotten-row, Glasgow, there happens to be a front-door below the level of the street, and a back window on the level of a green. The inmates are always on the alert in business hours, and at whichever side of the house a policeman or suspicious person is first seen, the customers are immediately out at the opposite side. The initiated who come to get their bottles filled usually prefer to make the transaction at the back window, but if they see any signs of danger, go round to the other side, and either get what they want there or wait till a more favourable opportunity. A plan which has been followed with success was that of employing a boy to stand before the door of a house situated at the end of a close in High-street, open at each end. The boy has in his possession a bottle of whisky, sells it at so much per glass; and, if a constable comes in sight, runs out at the other end of the close. He practised this manoeuvre with success until a constable was stationed at the one end of the close, his neighbour approached at the other end, and the boy ran into the embrace of the former. In a certain house, known to be a "shebeen," the police were baffled for a time, till one of them lifted the kettle, which was placed on the hob, and found it filled with whisky. In a low hovel off Bridgegate, a woman used to sit with a bottle concealed beneath her dress. Her chair was placed immediately behind a hole cut in the hearth, and communicating with a soot cellar. Whenever any alarm was given the bottle was rolled over into the hole, which was also hid by the woman's dress, and nothing could be found to justify police interference. Several dairies in High-street and Bridgegate are in reality whisky shops in disguise. In one of them, the shopkeeper, an Irishman, after he serves customers with milk, will ask with a peculiar emphasis, whether they do not want some "cram." If the hint is taken, the whisky is immediately forthcoming, and if not, the purchaser has, at least, seen and heard nothing to make him a witness. In Bridgegate an enterprising barber gives his customers a shave and a glass of whisky for threepence.

DISTRESSING OCCURRENCE.—An affair of a most melancholy kind has thrown two families in Leith into grief. A party had assembled in the house of an eminent Leith merchant on Wednesday, and while amusing themselves in the drawing-room, at a late hour in the evening, two young gentlemen, one of them the son of the host, commenced to fence with a couple of swords, when, either by an awkward thrust, or some accidental slip or push, the short sword used by the latter entered his friend's side, and inflicted a mortal wound. The deceased was the son of a most respectable merchant in Leith.

WINE-DUTIES.—The Cadiz papers give an account of Mr. Oliveira's visit to that city in connection with this subject, and intimate the deep interest which all the great houses at Xeres and Port St. Mary's take in the question. The hon. gentleman, it seems, has made a complete survey of the various establishments, and been most favourably received; added to which the leading commercial houses of Cadiz are beginning to view the principles of Free-trade with some favour, even as regards a reduction of the Spanish tariff. Mr. Oliveira is expected home early in February, when he will bring forward in the House of Commons his motion on the Wine-duties.

THREE HUNDRED stout porters are to be sent from Constantinople to Balaklava, and attached to the British army. They, and 600 more who are to follow, are to assist in transporting the stores from the ships to the Camp.



THE TINLINE TESTIMONIAL.

WATERPROOF CLOTHING FOR THE ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

THE exposed condition of our gallant army in the Crimea has very naturally prompted a variety of measures to make up for the deficiency in their original outfit for that variable climate. Their sufferings, according to the latest accounts, from exposure to the violent rains and storms which have been rarely paralleled for the period, immediately suggested their supply with waterproof clothing, thoroughly impervious to moisture, so as henceforth to render their position one of comparative comfort. These articles, it is stated, had not hitherto been supplied to troops; although the waterproofing of cloth by means of caoutchouc was one of the earliest of its new applications.

Her Majesty's Government, with this view, ordered of Mr. George Spill, of the Old Farm-house, Stepney-green, a vast quantity of this clothing, requiring 340,000 yards of cloth, prepared with indiarubber; and the great demand caused an extraordinary exertion on the part of the manufacturer. The order, which extended to nearly 50,000 waterproof suits, besides several thousand pairs of waterproof sheets, having to be completed within forty days, all hands set to work with energy almost amounting to enthusiasm; the factory at Stepney-green was open night and day; and the work was completed within the specified time, without accident to men or machinery.

The clothing thus supplied for the troops consists of (for each man) a large cape, with sleeves attached; a pair of leggings, to be worn over the boot-fronts; a hood to protect the head, and made to draw closely round the face, so that the soldier will be entirely incased in waterproof material, and altogether protected from damp. The material is a warm cotton fabric, used as an inner lining, the exterior being waterproofed with a dressing of caoutchouc, of which goods Mr. Spill is an extensive manufacturer. From examples sent by him to the Board of Ordnance for inspection, the contract was obtained for 45,000 suits, each consisting of a cape, boots, leggings, and cap.

Exchange, on the 5th of April, 1853. The fund for the purchase of the valuable gift had been previously subscribed, and was presented by the Chairman, Mr. George Elder. It consisted of a cheque for £2500, and a further cheque for £210, which he placed in the hands of Capt. Bagot, as the head of the committee, for the purpose of purchasing, in England, a Service of Plate. This design has been executed with artistic spirit by Messrs. Hunt and Roskell, and the Service has recently been presented to Mr. Tinline.

We have engraved one of the principal pieces of the service—a massive Silver Salver. The border is richly chased, and represents the flowers and fruit of Australia; and, in alternate compartments, in embossed characters, are the Arms of Australia, and the Tinline cipher reversed. In the centre is a gold plate, bearing the following inscription:—

This Service of Plate, with the sum of £2500 sterling, was presented to GEORGE TINLINE, Esq., Acting Manager of the South Australian Banking Company, by his fellow colonists, on Tuesday, the 5th day of April, 1853, as a grateful memorial of the important services rendered by him during the financial crisis immediately preceding and subsequent to the passing of the Bullion Act; and in testimony of their appreciation of his most considerate, judicious, and successful efforts to maintain unimpaired throughout that period public and private credit.

Around this centre are richly engraved groups, separated by the grass palm, illustrating, first, the passing of the Bullion Act, the Governor giving his assent to the enactment of the measure, surrounded by the various members of the Legislature. Next are the colonists in distress; and, thirdly, the colonists in prosperity, the result of the new law.

LOVE'S "LONDON SEASON."

A PORTRAIT of Mr. Love, the Polyphonist, in one of the leading characters of his last new entertainment, called "The London Season," now performed every evening at the Regent Gallery, will interest many readers. Continued acquaintance only confirms the opinion we have already

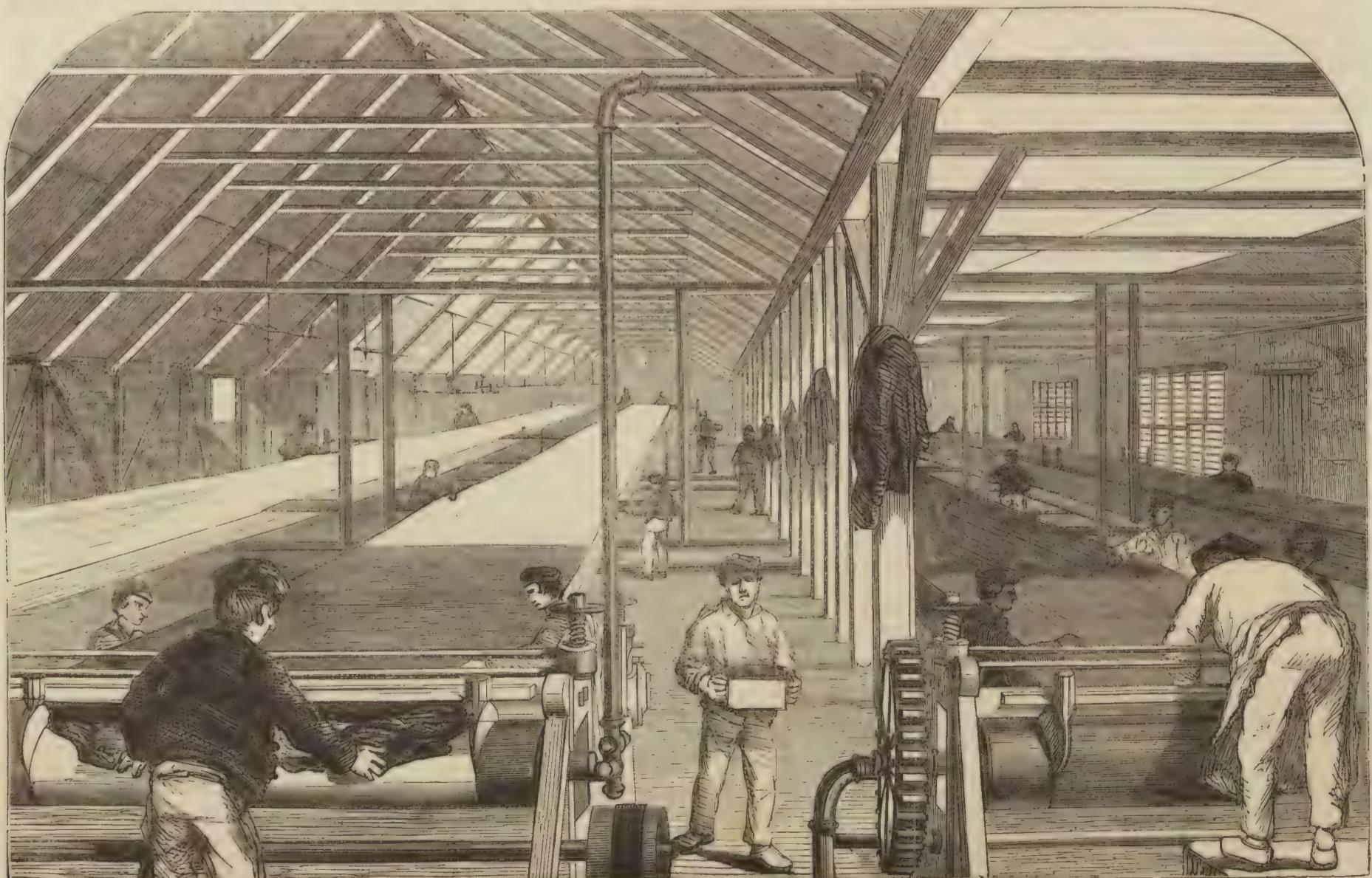
expressed of his merit and originality. In Mr. Love's delineations of certain foibles and eccentricities (which are perhaps rather more apparent during "the London Season" than at any other period), notwithstanding even a superficial observer may detect a little embellishing exaggeration, it is tolerably evident that the artist has depended more upon a close observation of those peculiarities, than upon what the author of the piece has set down; and that his "portraits" are painted from the actual life, not merely from imagination. His *dramatis personae* are sufficiently natural to show that he has been a frequent and not an unprofitable witness of the oddities, or of something very like them, which he personates with such precision, pleasantry, and effect—take the *Cabman* or *Miss Ideltaw* as an example; and in the mechanical department of the entertainment there is an unusual neatness and almost incredible celerity, which greatly heighten the astonishment and gratification of the audience.

But, if his visible delineations of character are worthy of eulogistic remark, his brilliant ventriloquy and exquisite vocal imitations are quite as much so: he gives to his numerous invisible and imaginary characters so great an apparent reality that they appear to be unequivocally present. We remember well the celebrated ventriloquist Alexandre; and, while admitting the unquestioned vocal powers and general versatility of the latter, it is now generally considered that Love is superior in both



MR. LOVE AS "MR. TRANQUILUS CALM," IN "THE LONDON SEASON."—FROM A DAGUERREOTYPE BY MAYALL.

particulars. Brilliantly quick as were Alexandre's changes of personal appearance to suit the exigencies of the subject, Love is quicker. As a ventriloquist Alexandre was singularly excellent; but Love's artistic management of tone is as wonderfully real as it is rapid and complete in transition. Those whose reminiscences may be on a par with our own, but whose early impressions are not easily obliterated, and who may wish to witness the exquisite perfection to which this art has been brought, should take an opportunity to visit our modern Proteus in his "London Season." It is a wonderfully-managed series of mimicry, acting, transformation, and ventriloquy, and creates the greatest astonishment in the minds of all who are present at its representation.



THE INDIARUBBER WATERPROOF WORKS, OLD FARM-HOUSE, STEPNEY.



SCENE FROM THE NEW PLAY "LOUIS XI." AT THE PRINCESS' THEATRE.

M. CASIMIR DELAVIGNE'S "LOUIS XI." AT THE PRINCESS'.

THERE can be no doubt that, notwithstanding the paucity of its incidents, the authors of "Louis XI." have crowded within its limits a large number of first-rate stage effects. These grow naturally enough out of the individuality of the hero. They are types of the man—startling revelations of character. A part constructed on this principle throws on the actor the responsibility and honour of producing such effects: they must proceed from his intelligence, his manner; they owe nothing to surrounding circumstances. The scene selected by our Artist for illustration is an example in point. It forms portion of a still larger example; and concludes a situation that, in the hands of an ordinary actor, must have perilled the success of the tragedy. A criminal Monarch confessing to his ghostly shriver the catalogue of his sins, and seeking absolution, is an intrusion into the sanctuary which nothing but the highest merit both in the poet and the artist can justify. To win applause in such a crisis is to "snatch a grace beyond the reach of art"—that is, of *recognised* art; for, otherwise, the triumph is achieved by the most consummate art, both in author and actor. Lord Byron, in his "Giaour," made an effective

scene out of similar materials; but then he had to do with impulse and passion, and his sinner could plead the force of love and the pressure of social wrong, not as an excuse for his guilt, but its irresistible motives. Louis has nothing but his will and ambition for apologies, and no fervour of soul to make the latter attractive. The poet has managed, however, to create an entirely *moral* interest; and the audience are made to recognise the instructive intention, and submit to the lesson. The conscience is laid bare; fallacies are exposed; righteous indignation is expressed; and judgment is passed. Even such a situation has preceded that which is now presented. While the convicted despot is writhing under the denunciations of a confessor whom he had deemed possessed of supernatural power, the man he had most wronged rushes in upon him, threatening his life; *Nemours*, whose father the King had condemned to the block, while his blood fell upon his children, the enforced witnesses of his execution. Constitutionally a coward, with that love of life which men suffering under long maladies frequently exhibit, *Louis XI.*, with his mind already subdued by superstitious terror, has not a rag of fortitude to oppose to the furious onset of the avenger. Mr. C. Kean at once exhibits an utter prostration of soul and body; he fears the very point of the dagger, and excites compassion by his helplessness. To pierce

a wretch so abject is what no truly brave man could do. *Nemours* feels this; but he resolves to wring his heart; and therefore, in answer to his various appeals for mercy, reads from his father's petition to the King the corresponding appeals, which the latter in his pride of power and place had unfeelingly rejected. He has also overheard his confession, and concluded from it that life was a heavier burthen than death to one so guilty and consumed with such remorse. Indignant, therefore, he grants the offender life, to the peril of his own, and quits the prostrate tyrant, who remains apparently insensible from the excess of fear. Such a situation, justified by adequate acting, is necessarily effective. Mr. C. Kean traced it from point to point; not a touch, not a shade was missing. The delineation was composed of minute particulars, which by degrees culminated to a high tragic impression—indeed, all but the highest.

Great exertions are being made that Turkey shall figure well at the Paris Exhibition. Keamli Bey is working the commission with great energy.

Among the list of articles exported from Switzerland appears the item "snails," of which 925 quintals were sold for foreign consumption during the months of October and November last.



PARIS FASHIONS FOR FEBRUARY.—(SEE PAGE 88.)

NATIONAL SPORTS.

The weather, as far as field sports are concerned, is in such a dubious state that it almost seems a mockery to mention the coursing and steeple-chase fixtures which stand on the list for next week. The latter comprehend Wolverhampton, which furnishes two steeplechases on Monday, for one of which there are eleven acceptances; none of them of a high character, as Star of England with 11st. (and that a "raised weight") is at the head of them. Croydon stands for Wednesday, and has a hurdle-race handicap with fourteen entries to back up its steeplechase. All the jumping cracks are bidding their time for Liverpool, Doncaster, &c.; and it is not improbable that the "500 soys added" by the French Jockey-club will tempt some of them and their admirers across the Channel on the great Metropolitan day (March 22nd) to run at Croix de Berney, near Paris.

The coursing fixtures have been completely disarranged by the frost; and the only ones that we know of at present for next week are the great "renewed trial between North-Western and South-Western coursers," at Lytham, on Monday, &c.; and a day at Bryn-y-pysa, on Tuesday; and two at Hilton, near Yarm, on Thursday and Friday. However, with three months of open weather up to this point, neither coursers nor hunters have much to complain of. The Wilts and Berks kennels have been suffering so heavily from distemper, that it is thought that some of the South-Western nominations at Lytham will hardly be taken up. Bedlamite has not run this season; and we doubt not that the cross between him and Cerito will be as lucky as that of Egypt and Mocking-Bird.

The racing men have at last been roused from their comparative winter slumber by the publication of the weights for five great handicaps; in which Messrs. Topham and Johnson weight Kataplan at 3 lbs. and 4 lbs. respectively more than Virago. Mr. Topham has also shown Calamus 8 st., and Wild Huntsman 8 st. 7 lbs., no mercy, and let in Seythian (a very much better horse than the public fancy) at 7 st. 4 lbs., and that child of mystery, the Reiver, who is still, we believe, the property of Mr. Stanley, at 7 st. 6 lbs. Muscovite is in favourably, considering his great size and muscular power, both at York and Chester; and the same may be said of a good second-rate three-year-old, Kings-town. The countless races which are played off before a handicapper's face render the composition of such lists an almost herculean task, but we hear very few complaints on the whole, and anticipate very fair acceptances. The Epsom and the Northampton Handicaps bear strong internal evidence of not being by the same hand; and in the two former Admiral Rous's principle, that a handicap should commence at 10st., is fully carried out.

In the hunting line there is nothing of great interest. Major Hall, the most amusing writer on stag-hunting that we possess, is said to have gone out as a staff officer to the East, and we trust to see him soon back with health and victory, "hunting the wild deer and following the roe" over his favourite Exmoor. One of the antlered monarchs has been run into by the Penshurst harriers, and the owner of it is quaintly requested by advertisement to apply for it "to the members of the Penshurst Hunt, at the Post-office." The Gloucestershire yeomen are calling out very loudly about the practice which is adopted of digging out all foxes that are run to earth in the Fitzhardings and Gifford Hunts, in order to blood the hounds. These fox-hunting Hampdens very properly say that they do not care to see "a base Phrygian Turk" dug out to encourage the skirrers and tailors, but that they will preserve foxes no longer, if the same fate continues to be meted out to the honest runners, who have fairly earned their city of refuge.

The lots at the different trainers are beginning to muster strong. In addition to those we mentioned last week, Fobert has 31, Stevens 34, and William Day 28. Mr. Parr seems to have not succeeded as yet in effecting any sales, as he still numbers 14; while neither Tros, Grapeshot, nor Tyrius appears as yet in G. Abdale's string, which only counts 5. The spring meetings are so near at hand that a good deal of work has been done in the snow, at the imminent peril of feet-ballings, and consequent spavins. Bonnie Morn, who is still said only to look like a cob, leads the great, long-striding Graculus in his gallops. Miss Mowbray, the steeplechase mare, is believed to be under Scott's charge, as her old trainer, Dockeray, is now engaged solely to Messrs. Payne and Greville. Phryne has just produced a sister to Rambling Katie, who is a great dangerous-looking animal to claim a 5 lb. mare's allowance in the Derby; and we may expect to see a Teddington foal at the foot of Inheritress next year. Chanticleer's subscription is full; while Chatham, the once favourite horse of Lord George Bentinck, and the sire of Sittingbourne, and of Strood (who was sold for 1200 guineas, untried, last October), is said to have changed hands at a London auction. Last week for £5 15s. cd! If we remember rightly, Amurath, who was once Lord Derby's, was sold for something like £9 at Birmingham—a melancholy illustration of the "High-mettled Racer" ballad.

St. Hubert still holds his own in the Derby betting, with a firmness which is most unaccountable in a "dark" horse. His friends laugh at the notion of Oulston being the better of the two, and declare that they will support their horse till the 2000 Guineas day, and that he will be able to support himself after that.

WINTER IN STAMBOL.—The dreary winter has at length set in, and the streets are a mass of snow and mud. From the crowds of strangers who have lately been collected from all parts of the world within the limits of the European quarter, there is an air of animation in the narrow and dirty streets, but an animation without gaiety, and more resembling the bustle of some dingy and populous neighbourhood of London. The great street of Pera is a dirty lane, formed by high irregular houses, and destitute of all pavement for foot passengers, who must clamber and slip over the pointed blocks of stone, among horses and asses, porters carrying heavy weights by means of long poles, and crowds of the rabble of the Levant smelling of garlic and meditating theft. Without large boots or goloshes no one ventures to quit his home, and as rain may be expected at intervals of about two hours, each traveller is armed with an umbrella. When the whole of these are extended at the approach of a shower, the collisions are incessant, and the pathway almost choked. The most conspicuous figures are the French officers, who are met at every turn. The British are almost entirely confined to the Asiatic shore of the Bosphorus. Their two stations of Scutari and Kouleli are most conveniently situated for the transport of wounded and sick from the vessels to the hospital, and are also far removed from the close and tobacco-laden atmosphere of Pera. But the inconvenience which results from their being placed on the opposite shore of an arm of the sea, liable to sudden squalls at all times, and in winter almost impassable, is more than equivalent to these advantages. The officers have the management of our hospitals are obliged to have recourse to a miserable caque whenever they wish to consult with the authorities on this side of the water, for though a steamer has been established to ply across, it is not suited to the necessities of men who may be detained for an unlimited time, or summoned at a moment's notice to make a journey. The consequence is that the British authorities are accustomed to do as much business as possible in a single visit, and with the exception of the naval officers and a few belonging to regiments just arrived, very few of our countrymen are to be met with within the limits of the capital. The French, however, are to be found everywhere, and their tasteful uniforms add much to the liveliness of the streets on a fine day, which, in this changeable climate, may be expected occasionally even in the depth of winter.—*Letter from Constantinople, Jan. 8.*

THE CHAOS AT BALACLAVA.—A vessel arrived at Balaklava loaded with boots and shoes. Having no bill of lading, and the cargo being merely stated as shoes for the army, the vessel was ordered out of the harbour to wait her turn. A few days afterwards an order came from Lord Raglan to obtain a vessel to proceed to Constantinople instantly on a most pressing service. This vessel was consequently ordered to proceed to Constantinople with Lord Raglan's agents, without unloading. When she had nearly reached that place one of the agents imparted in confidence to the Captain that he was going to Constantinople to purchase boots and shoes, the army being in a great state of destitution for want of a supply. The Captain replies, "Why, my vessel is filled with boots and shoes." Upon which the ship was put immediately about and returned to Balaklava.—*Letter from the Camp, Jan. 2.*

Accounts from various parts of Spain continue to indicate the approach of a Carlist insurrection.

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

The market transaction in the City of London this week has been comparatively small, and prices have given way. The coins which have been productive of heaviness are the unfavourable result of the fact that, as the inevitable tendency of the war, the heavy demands of India, and the increased cost of living, have increased the costs of the fortifications of the Crimea, the English pound, which was reduced by the C.R. late in December, to the value of £1 1s. 6d. is still in circulation. On the subject of the easiest mode of raising money to carry on the war, the opinion is said to have prevailed in certain quarters. It has, we understand, been proposed to raise a large additional sum by means of increased taxation, and to give to the Stock Exchange a portion of the revenue, probably by a local tax on the subject, as further M.P.s will be convened.

Sales of stock having for some time past exceeded the purchases, the supply in the hands of the jobbers is large. This feature has, of course, tended to keep

prices in check; but favourable news from the Crimea, and only a moderate loan—if it should be applied for—will, no doubt, have the effect of enhancing the quotations.

Very few purchases were effected in any security on Monday. Altogether, the market was in a most inactive state.—Bank Stock was 21½. The Three per Cent Reduced marked 9½ up to 92; the Three per Cent Consols, 9½ down to 9½; the New Three per Cents, 9½ to 92½; and Consols for Account, 9½ to 9½; India Stock, 22½; Exchequer Bills, 7s. to 4s. prem.; Exchequer Bonds, 99½. On Tuesday the market was again heavy. The Three per Cents Reduced varied from 9½ to 9½; the Three per Cent Consols, 9½ to 9½; Consols for Account, 9½ to 9½; New Three per Cents, 9½ to 92; New Five per Cents, 11½; Long Annuities, 1860, 4 5-16 ½; Ditto, 1859, 4 3-16. India Bonds were 14; Exchequer Bills, 4s. to 7s. prem.; Exchequer Bonds, 1859, 99½. The following are Wednesday's quotations—taking the highest and lowest range:—Bank Stock, 21½ to 21½; Ditto, for the Account, 21½; Three per Cents Reduced, 9½ to 9½; Consols for Account, 9½ to 9½; New Three per Cents, 9½ to 92; New Five per Cents, 11½; Long Annuities, 1860, 4 5-16 ½; India Stock, 22½; India Bonds, 11s.; Exchequer Bills, 4s. to 7s. prem.; Exchequer Bonds, 1858, 99½; Ditto, 1859, 99½. On Thursday Consols were very flat. The Three per Cents marked 9½ to 91½; 90½ to 91 for Transfer; and 9½ to 9½ to 9½ for Account. The new Three per Cents were 9½ to 9½; and the Three per Cents Reduced, 9½ to 9½. Exchequer Bills were 4s. to 7s.; and India Bonds, 11s. to 14s. prem.

All Foreign Bonds have been dull, yet we have very little change to notice in the quotations. Brazilian Five per Cents have been done at 100; Ditto, New Five per Cents, 99½; Mexican Three per Cents, 21½; Peruvian Three per Cents, 51; Russian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 90; Spanish Three per Cents, 37; Ditto, New Deferred, 17½; Turkish Bonds, 76½; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 62; Dutch Four per Cents, 93; Portuguese Four per Cents, 42½; Sardinian Five per Cents, 86; Belgian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 91; French Three per Cents, 68½; Austrian Six per Cents, 70.

The interest on French Treasury Bonds has been reduced one per cent.

The imports of bullion have been liberal, viz., £27,000 from India, £1000 from New York, £133,000 from the West Indies, and £505,000 (including 85,000 sovereigns) from Australia. The exchange upon Paris being favourable, and as no portion of the new loan has been taken in this country, scarcely any shipments of gold have been made this week.

There has been a moderate inquiry for Joint-Stock Bank Shares, the prices of which have continued firm:—Australia have realised 80; English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered, 15; London Chartered of Australia, 21½; London and Westminster, 42; National Provincial of England, 59½ ex div.; Ditto, New, 17 ex div.; New South Wales, 37; Oriental, 37½; Union of Australia, 66; Ditto, New, 8; Union of London, 27 ex div. In Miscellaneous Securities very little has been done:—Canada Bonds, 105; Ditto, per Cents, 107½; Crystal Palace, 2½; East and West India Bonds, 119 ex div.; Commercial, 93 ex div.; London, 103; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 51. Canal Shares have marked the following quotations:—Ashton and Oldham, 13½ ex div.; Coventry, 209; Derby, 84; Grand Junction, 55; Grand Surrey, 43; Leicester, 59; Loughborough, 55; Neath, 150; Oxford, 110; Regent's, 15½ ex div.; Rochdale, 60; Stafford and Worcester, 42½; Stourbridge, 28½; Warwick and Birmingham, 20. Water-works Shares have been very dull—Berlin, 2½; Grand Junction, 70; Kent, 79; Southwark and Vauxhall, 89½; New River Company, 55; West Middlesex, 9½ ex div. There has been scarcely any inquiry for Gas-light and Coke Companies' Shares:—British Provincial have marked 21; Continental, 64; Equitable, 29; Phoenix, 28½; Ratcliff, 70; Imperial, 95 ex div.; Ditto, New, 10½ ex div.; Surrey Consumers, 11; United General, 19½; Westminster Chartered, 40. Insurance Companies' Shares have been:—Alliance, 18½; Argus Life, 22; City of London, 2½; General, 5½; Globe, 123 ex div.; Imperial Fire, 330; Ditto Life, 18½; Law Fire, 4; Ditto Life, 36; London, 29; Peacock, 46; Provident Life, 39; Sun Life, 57½; Victoria, 5½. Hungerford-bridge Shares have marked 12; Vauxhall, 23; Waterloo, 4½; Ditto, Old Annuities of £8, 31; Ditto, New Annuities of £7, 28.

Although the dividends upon some of the leading lines are good, railway shares have been dull and drooping. The following are the official closing prices on Thursday:—

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.—Aberdeen, 20; Caledonian, 61½; Ditto, for money, 62½; Chester and Holyhead, 13; East Anglian, 14½; Eastern Counties, 11½; East Lancashire, 73½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 56; Great Northern, 90½ ex div.; Ditto, A Stock, 72; Ditto, B Stock, 12½; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 92; Great Western, 66½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 74½; London and Brighton, 106; London and North-Western, 101; Ditto, Eightights, 1½; London and South-Western, 84; Ditto, £50, 31½; Ditto, £10, 27; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 23½; Midland, 69½; Norfolk, 50; North British, 31; North-Eastern—Berwick, 76; Ditto Leeds, 13; Ditto, York, 51; North Staffordshire, 13½; South-Eastern, 58½; Thames Haven Dock and Railway, 3½.

LINES LEASED AT FIXED RENTALS.—Buckinghamshire, 98; London, Tilbury, and Southend, 10½; Midland Bradford, 92½; Preston and Wye, 43½; Wilts and Somerset, 92.

PREFERENCE SHARES.—Eastern Counties Extension, No. 1, 5 prem.; Ditto, Six per Cent Stock, 13; Great Northern Five per Cent, 11½; Ditto, Redeemable at 10 per cent prem., 10½; Ditto, Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 100½; Ditto, Scrip, 23; South-Eastern, 23½.

FOREIGN.—Dutch Rhenish, 7½; Grand Trunk of Canada, A issue, 4½; Great Central of France, 11½; Great Luxembourg, 2½; Great Western of Canada, 16½; Western of France, 23½.

MINING SHARES.—Very little has been doing:—Pontgland Silver Lead have been 14; United Mexican, 24; St. John del Rey, 30; Cobre Copper, 50; Linaries, 7½.

THE MARKETS.

CORN-EXCHANGE, Jan. 22.—A very moderate supply of English wheat was on sale here to-day, and the demand for all kinds ruled steady, at an advance in the quotations realised on Monday last of from 3s. to 4s. per quarter. In foreign wheats only a moderate business was transacted, at an improvement in value of from 1s. to 2s. per quarter. There was a good inquiry for barley, the price of which advanced 1s. to 2s. per quarter. Malt was held on former terms, but the demand ruled very inactive. We had a show sale for oats, at last week's currency. Both beans and peas changed hands steadily, at 1s. per quarter more money. The flour trade was firm, and ship qualities were 2s. per sack per quarter.

JAN. 24.—The trade for most articles to-day was steady, and Monday's prices were well supported.

WHEAT.—Wheat, Essex and Kent red, 68s. to 72s.; ditto, white, 71s. to 81s.; Norfolk and Suffolk red, 68s. to 72s.; ditto, white, 68s. to 72s.; rye, 41s. to 48s.; grinding barley, 31s. to 32s.; distilling, 38s. to 39s.; malting, 31s. to 38s.; Lincoln and Norfolk malt, 66s. to 70s.; brown ditto, 66s. to 62s.; Kingston and Ware, 68s. to 71s.; Chevalier, 71s. to 72s.; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 25s. to 27s.; potato, 29s. to 32s.; Youghal and Cork, black, 25s. to 28s.; ditto, white, 26s. to 31s.; fitch beans, 41s. to 47s.; grey peas, 41s. to 43s.; maple, 41s. to 45s.; Suffolk, 48s. to 50s.; boars, 50s. to 52s. per quarter. Town-made flour, 68s. to 73s.; country marks, 53s. to 58s. per 28s-lbs.

SEEDS.—The demand generally has been very inactive; yet we have very little change to notice in the quotations:—

Linsseed, English, sowing, 72s. to 75s.; Baltic, crushing, 68s. to 68s.; Mediterranean and Odessa, 68s. to 75s.; Hempseed, 51s. to 58s.; Coriander, 16s. to 18s. per cwt. Brown Mustard-seed, 12s. to 16s.; white ditto, 9s. to 16s. Tares, 28s. to 32s. per bushel. English rapeseed, £33 to £35 per ton of ten quarters. Linseed Cakes, English, £12 to £13; ditto, foreign, £10 10s. to £12 10s. per ton; rap cakes, £6 5s. to £8 10s. per ton. Canary, 51s. to 55s. per quarter.

BRITISH.—The price of wheat bread in the metropolis are from 10d. to 1d.; of household ditto, 8d. to 1d.; loaf, 6d.

IMPERIAL.—Wheat, 72s. 2d.; barley, 33s. 7d.; oats, 26s. 1d.; rye, 46s. 7d.; beans, 45s. 2d.; peas, 42s. 9d.

THE SIX WEEKS AVERAGES.—Wheat, 72s. 1d.; barley, 31s. 1d.; oats, 27s. 7d.; rye, 46s. 7d.; beans, 47s. 2d.; peas, 45s. 6d.

English Grain Sold Last Week.—Wheat, 77,711; barley, 99,917; oats, 12,967; rye, 180; beans, 4910; peas, 1772 quarters.

Coffee.—The amount of business doing in our market this week is but moderate. Prices, however, are well supported. Common sound congo, 10d. per lb. The stock of most kinds of tea is large.

Sugar.—There has been a good demand for all raw sugars, and in most transactions the quotes have advanced 6d. to 1s. per cwt. Low to mid, yellow Mauritius has rallied 29s. 6d. to 31s. mid, yellow, 33s. 6d. to 34s. 6d.; grainy mid-yellow Bengal, 26s. to 34s. 6d.; good white Benares, 37s. 6d. to 38s. 6d.; and native Madras, 25s. to 27s. 6d. per cwt. Refined goods have changed hands at 42s. to 48s. per cwt. The total clearances this year to date with last week were 214,319 cwt., against 322,500 ditto in 1854.

Coffee.—On the whole, the demand has been steady. In prices very little change has taken place.

Provisions.—The amount of business doing in Irish butter is but moderate; yet, in some instances, prices have an upward tendency. Foreign butter is rather dearer, with a firm demand. English is held at extreme rates. In bacon and other articles very little is doing.

Tallow.—There is more doing in our market, and prices are improving. P.Y.C., on the spot, has changed hands at 5s. 6d. to 5s. 9d.; and for forward delivery, 5s. 6d. per cwt. The importers are moderate.

Oils.—Linen oil is quoted at 30s. per cwt. Fine Sperm is worth £123. Other oils are a slow sale. In turpentine very little is passing.

Spirits.—The sale of rum is heavy, and the quotations are not supported. Proof Liquors, 2s. 11d. to 3s. 1d.; East India, 2s. 8d. to 2s. 10d. per gallon. Brandy, Geneva, and corn spirits command very little attention.

Cools.—Tandem Moor, 17s.; Walker Primrose, 16s. 9d.; Northumberland, 21s.; Haswell, 26s.; Hetton, 26s.; Pensher,

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

AMUSEMENTS, &c.

THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET.—On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, ROMEO and JULIET; Romeo, Miss Cushman; Juliet, Miss Swanborough, first appearance, Tuesday and Saturday, Paul Pry. Thursday, the Last Juvenile Night of the season, when the Pantomime will conclude at Ten o'clock. The Last Morning Performance of the Pantomime on Saturday next. The Pantomime of Little Bo-peep every Evening.

ROYAL PRINCESS' THEATRE.—Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, LOUIS XI.; Wednesday, HAMLET; Saturday, RIVALS. PANTOMIME Every Evening.

MADAME TUSSAUD'S GALLERY, BAZAAR, Baker-street.—The HERO of ALMA and of INKERMAN.—A MODEL of that chivalric Soldier, Field-Marshal Lord RAGLAN, in the full costume of his high rank, is now added.—Admission, 1s. Napoleon Rooms, 6d.

POLYPHONY.—Go and Hear LOVE, the greatest DRAMATIC VENTRILLOQUIST in Europe, in his New Entertainment, called THE LONDON SEASON, at the UPPER HALL, REGENT GALLERY, 69, Quadrant, Regent-street.—Every Evening, at Eight, except Saturday; Saturday, at Three.

LEICESTER-SQUARE.—The AZTECS and the EARTHMEN.—The first of either race ever seen in Europe. Exhibited DAILY, from Three to Five, and Seven to Half-past Nine. Lectures at Four and Eight. Vocal and Instrumental Concerts. Exhibition, by Miss C. Wallworth, Mr. H. Smith, and Mr. W. J. Morris, on the Crystal-Phonetic Admission: Stalls, 2s.; Reserved Seats, 1s.; Gallery, 6d. HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS, DAILY, from Twelve to Two. Admission, 3s. and 2s.

NOW EXHIBITING AT 57, PALL-MALL, A MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ANTIQUITIES, illustrative of the Mythology, the Religious Rites, and the Sepulture of the Toltec and Aztec Nations, as shown in figures of their Idols, Pontif Chieftains, Ceramary and Libatory Vases, Sacrificial and Musical Instruments, &c., &c. Admission, 1s.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER HALL.—Conductor, Mr. COSTA. FRIDAY next, FEB. 2nd, Haydn's CREATION. Vocalists—Miss Birch, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Weiss; with Orchestra of (including 16 double-basses) nearly 700 Performers. Tickets, 3s., 5s., and 10s. 6d. each, [at] the Society's Office, No. 6, in Exeter-hall.

LONDON SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER-HALL.—On WEDNESDAY EVENING, Jan. 31st, Haydn's ORATORIO, CREATION. Vocalists—Mrs. Sunderland, Mr. Donald King, and Mr. H. Phillips. The Oratorio will be preceded by the Anthem, "In That Day," composed and conducted by Dr. Elvey, dedicated by permission to His Royal Highness Prince Albert. Tickets, 2s., 3s., 5s., and 10s. 6d. each.—Office, No. 9, Exeter-hall.

EXETER-HALL.—Mrs. FANNY KEMBLE. MONDAY EVENING, FEB. 5, Mrs. Fanny Kemble will read MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, accompanied by the whole of the Music, composed by Mendelssohn, by a complete Orchestra and Chorus, under the direction of Mr. Benedict. To commence at 8 o'clock.—Tickets and reserved seats to be secured at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

PATRON HR.H.J. PRINCE ALBERT. ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—Miss Glyn's Dramatic Readings every Thursday Evening, at Eight. Lecture to the Industrial Classes on Monday Evening, on the Electric Telegraph and its Use. Whatsoever's Experiments, on the Conduction of Sound, illustrated by a Telephone Concert. Perkins's Steam Gun, discharging 200 Balls per Minutes. Splendid Optical Drama of Shaded the Sailor. Dissolving Views of the War, &c., &c.

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GEOLOGY.—KING'S COLLEGE, London.—Professor TENNANT, F.G.S., will commence a course of SIXTEEN LECTURES ON DESCRIPTIVE GEOLOGY on FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 26th, at Nine o'clock. The Lectures will be continued on each succeeding Wednesday and Friday, at the same hour.

R. W. JELF, D.D., Principal.

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY (Instituted 1774), for the Recovery of Persons Apparently Drowned or Dead. Supported solely by Voluntary Contributions. Patron, her Majesty the Queen; Vice-Patron, H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, K.G.; President, His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, L.S.K.C. On SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 1855, the EIGHTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING, with a Lecture, will be presented in the Parish Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar-square, by the Rev. R. MONTGOMERY, M.A., Minister of Percy Chapel, in aid of the Funds of the above Institution. Divine Service will begin at Eleven o'clock. Subscriptions and Donations thankfully received by Benjamin Hawes, Esq., Treasurer, Ormond-house, Old Kent-road; Messrs. Dinsdale and Co., Cornhill; Drummond and Co., Charing-cross, bankers; and at the office of the Society, 3, Trafalgar-square, by JOSEPH CHARLIER, Secretary.

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President.—The Right Hon. the Earl of Carlisle.

Pupils must be introduced by the President, Vice-President, Committee, and Lady Visitors.

Senior Department.—The next term (Cent) will commence MONDAY, JANUARY 29th inst., and close April 28th. Expense, £1 1s. 6d. per term, paid in advance, for those classes which meet once, and £2 2s. for those which meet twice in the week. A composition of £10 10s. the first term, £9 9s. the second, and £8 8s. the third, will admit a pupil to Fifteen Classes in the week. Individual Instruction in Instrumental Music and Singing, and more advanced Lessons in Drawing at £4 4s. per term. Chemistry and Natural Philosophy £1 1s. per term each.

Junior Department.—The Quarter commenced January 8. Terms, £10 10s. the year, or for first quarter £9 6s.; second £8 5s.; third £4 4s.; fourth £3 3s.; for the first year; and after the first year, either £10 10s. for the year, or £4 4s. 6d. per quarter. All payments to be made in advance.

Prospectuses, and every information, may be obtained on application to the College.

J. R. C. THOMSON, Secretary.

THE HON. ARTILLERY COMPANY of LONDON, the most ancient Corps of Volunteers in England, is open for the admission of Gentlemen residing in the metropolis and its environs, who are willing to give a portion of their time to military services.

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Lists of the Sliders and Prices upon application to the Manufacturers, Messrs. Carpenter and Westley, Opticians, 24, Regent-street, Waterloo-place, London.

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Explanatory Table of the Public Acts of Parliament passed in the Last Session.

Lists of Persons of Note who have died within the last Twelve Months. Principal Articles of the Calendar for 1855.

Mahomed and the Jewels of the Year.

Times of the Pole Star being on the Meridian.

List of New Planets Discovered.

On the recently-discovered Planets; with Diagrams showing their places in the heavens when discovered.

Government and Law Offices and Officers, Stamps and Taxes,

THE GIPSY SISTERS
OF SEVILLE, BY J.
PHILLIP, IN THE WIN-
TER EXHIBITION.

THIS is no imaginary sketch, no mere effort of *genre* painting; it claims to rank in the historic art as a study of character, of race, of nationality; and by one who has made the study of Spanish nationalities all his own. The deep meaning in the eye, and the strongly-marked features of the two Gipsy Sisters, speak of a hard destiny of bitter memories; of a persecuted race, but of an intelligent, and deeply reflective one withal; of a race in which there is yet much to admire, if not to love and to esteem. One has a transient smile, with a smack of coquetry in her regard, as if she were recognising the flattering salutation of some passer-by; but the other is all sternness, and repels with hollow scorn the idle compliment. The ample fall of the rich dark tresses; the warm and swarthy complexion; the truly national costume, and the glowing atmosphere, are perfect in their several truth and in their general harmony. The execution in every part is highly artistic.

PARIS FASHIONS
FOR FEBRUARY.

THE New-Year's-day receptions at the Tuilleries have not introduced any change in the fashions. The Court mantles, indispensable on that occasion, were, for the most part, made of velvet, with worked borders; many, however, were made of the same material as the robe, which is generally, white; lozenges or squares of lace being placed around the mantle. A house, well known for its laces, has made a Court mantle of black or white lace, mounted upon satin, transparent, to match the colour of the toilette.

We present our fair readers with a description of the Empress's costume at the reception of the 2nd January. Upon the raised bands of her hair shone three rows of diamonds, surmounted by the Imperial crown. The robe and mantelet were of sky-blue velvet. The skirt of the robe was worked in front, with gems, as also was the corsage; the mantle was embroidered with gold and clear pearls. The Princess Mathilde wore a purple robe, with a mantle of the same colour, adorned with pearls and rubies.

Robes are worn fuller than ever. Flounces are somewhat out of favour; but, as if to set this dictum at defiance, we saw the other day flounces on a robe of *moiré antique*, and on another of velvet! Scarcely could either of these eccentricities get through the corridor of the Théâtre des Italiens; still the costumes were elegantly worn, and noticed by every one. We hope they will have but few imitators; but our duty is to note all that is made in the way of novelties.



"THE SPANISH GIPSY SISTERS."—PAINTED BY JOHN PHILLIP.—FROM THE ROYAL COLLECTION.

The *moiré antique* is going somewhat out of fashion, and for a very simple reason: this material owed its fame to its high price, but it has just experienced a great reduction, and may be bought for seven

one row passes over the head, and loses itself in the rolls of hair; two large Italian pins serve to sustain the hair, and are mounted with large beads of pearl.

MUSIC.

THE performance of "Judas Maccabeus" by the SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY on Friday (last week) demands notice, not only on account of its general excellence, but specially on account of the first appearance of Madame Rudersdorff as an oratorio singer. This lady, who enjoys a high reputation throughout Germany as a *prima donna* of the first class, on the Italian and German Opera stage, has fully maintained that reputation since her arrival in England at the beginning of last season. She has shown great powers, and has been justly appreciated as a fine actress and an accomplished dramatic singer; but the public were not prepared for her appearance in a totally different character—a singer of the sacred music of Handel. In this branch of their art few foreign performers have succeeded. In the first place, the effect of their singing has generally been more or less marred by their want of command of the English language, and their exotic pronunciation and accent; and, secondly, Handel's music—having been composed in and for England, and having been almost exclusively performed in England from his own time to the present—demands a style of performance which has been handed down by tradition through successive generations of English singers, and which is unknown even in Handel's native country, where (to its shame be it spoken) his music, after the lapse of a century, is only now beginning to receive some degree of attention. Madame Rudersdorff, however, is a complete mistress of our language, which she speaks and sings with the facility and purity of a native. Her extensive musical attainments, moreover, have long since made her well acquainted with the works of Handel; and we have reason to know that, ever since her arrival in England, she has assiduously laboured to acquire the true Handelian style, having wisely had recourse to the aid of the very best English authorities. The result was shown by her admirable performance in "Judas Maccabeus," when it was apparent to every one that, as a soprano singer of the sacred music of Handel, she is rivalled only by Clara Novello, whose great gifts of nature have likewise received the highest cultivation in every branch of her art. A great beauty of Madame Rudersdorff's singing was its facility and smoothness: she never strained her voice beyond its natural powers, and never indulged in forced emphasis or exaggerated expression. She spoke the words with perfect intelligence and propriety, conveying with the utmost clearness the full meaning of the composer. Nor did she disfigure the text (as so many singers do) by redundancy of so-called embellishment. She sang with the utmost plainness and simplicity, admitting only an occasional slight but graceful variation of a closing phrase, and introducing, sparingly but beautifully, that truly Handelian ornament, a fine shake. Her most remarkable songs were, "Pious orgies, pious airs," to which she gave a profound devotional expression; and "From mighty kings he took the spoil," which she sang with a brilliancy of execution and a buoyant joyousness we have scarcely ever heard equalled. Her success was complete; and she will now, unquestionably, take her place, though a foreigner, in the foremost rank of our English Handelian singers.

M. JULLIEN, pursuing the classical course which he has so happily begun, has followed up his Beethoven and Mendelssohn Festivals by a Mozart Festival, which was given on Tuesday evening, and was the

most attractive and successful performance of the season. The vast theatre was crowded to overflowing in every part. The multitude listened with charmed ears to the strains of the most captivating of all composers—strains universal in their influence, and equally enchanting to the learned and the unlearned. M. Jullien's selection was made with excellent judgment and taste. It included the unrivalled overture to the "Zauberflöte," which has been called "the despair of composers;" the famous symphony in C, to which a great musician (we think it was John Cramer), by way of expressing its pre-eminent grandeur, gave the name of "Jupiter"—a name by which it is now generally designated; the symphony in E flat, so full of sweet and graceful melody; the beautiful and expressive air, "L'Addio," which Miss Dolby sang exquisitely; and the sonata in E flat, for the piano and violin, which Madame Leyel and Ernst executed in a style of absolute perfection. Nothing could be more striking than the profound silence and earnest attention with which these long, elaborate, and refined instrumental pieces were listened to by a vast promiscuous assemblage, who, a very few years ago, would not have had the patience to give them a hearing.

THE directors of the PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY have engaged Herr Richard Wagner as conductor of the concerts of the ensuing season. Herr Wagner long held the office of *maestro di capella* at Dresden, but was obliged to leave Saxony in consequence of having involved himself in the political troubles of that kingdom, and has latterly resided in retirement at Zurich. He is one of the most celebrated musicians of the day; but his character as a composer, like that of Berlioz, is the subject of much controversy. In England his numerous works are almost unknown; and our acquaintance with them is too slight to enable us to form an opinion on their merits. There can be little doubt, however, from the sensations he has created in Germany, that he is a man of a bold and original genius; and it seems by no means improbable that his music, however strange and fantastic it may at first appear, may assume, when better known, a very different aspect. As a musical director and *chef d'orchestre* his abilities are said to be of the highest order. The first concert of the season takes place on the 12th of March.

PRUSSIAN SHIPWRIGHTS IN FRENCH DOCKYARDS.—The immense naval preparations going on in the French dockyards have not only absorbed the labour of all the available ship-carpenters in the country, but render it desirable to obtain further assistance from abroad. Under these circumstances the French Government have turned their attention to the principal ship-building ports in the Baltic, with the view of engaging carpenters and other mechanics serviceable in ship-building. Upwards of sixty men of this description have been engaged at Stettin alone, and a still greater number at Dantzig, Königsberg, and Memel. The conditions are very liberal: the men get a free passage to Havre, with two dollars a day for expenses, and their wages are five francs a day. They are also to be sent back to their respective homes at the expense of the French Government, when their services are no longer required.

The pay of the third-class constables of the metropolitan police is ordered to be raised 2s. a-week, and Lord Palmerston has given directions for a new arrangement of night duty, by which the labours of the force will not be so severe as now.

or eight francs a yard. Hence it will only be worn for visiting and walking dresses. It is difficult to say what material is to be substituted for it. The Exhibitor will, assuredly, bring us some beautiful and rich novelty, but it must be very dear, which will be its first element of success.

Bonnets are as scanty as ever, and particular materials are manufactured for making the upper parts; they are either *velours épingle*, or *gros-de-tours*, sprinkled with black velvet peas upon a ground of rose, blue, green, dark violet, or chestnut. A new material called *velours mousse* is remarkably becoming in this cold weather; it is trouble lost, however, to search for a warm material for bonnets, which leave nearly all the head uncovered, and only shelter that part of it which is naturally protected by the hair. Velvet mantles are in season this severe weather; they are uniformly black. *Mantelets visite* are also worn of velvet, worked colour upon colour with deep lace, which falls low behind, and raises itself towards the arms.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

No. 1 Bonnet of rose-coloured *velours mousse*, ornamented with white blonde upon the front, and *d'ombelles roses* in the cap. Black velvet mantle, ornamented with marten-fur. Robe of *velour Ottoman pensée*, with two flounces trimmed with squares of black velvet placed upon the borders, and forming a sort of square.

No. 2 Bonnet of *velours épingle marron*, with black lace; and cap of rose-coloured velvet flowers. Mantle of grey *drap feutre*, trimmed with large black velvet braid, placed near the edge. Robe en *brocarte bleue Louise*, with running velvet patterns upon every flounce, and borders in black.

No. 1 *Couïture* of flowers *mauve rose*, arranged in a half-crown, and placed beneath the hair; a rose-coloured ribbon of *velours épingle* under the bands, and passing over the summit of the head.

No. 2 *Couïture* of *acacias de chine*, beginning at the back hair, and letting fall over the shoulders its white flowers, mingled with leaves.

No. 3 *Couïture* of velvet plaited with the hair, and letting fall two *barbes* of lace, *en point d'Alençon*, upon the velvet ribbon. The stars of diamonds are disposed to form a diadem on the bands of hair. The shade of the velvet should match the dress; *aux Tuilleries* green only is worn.

No. 4 *Couïture demiss*: a wide ribbon begins at the upper part of the head, goes round the comb, and forms two large bows on each side, while the long ends fall upon the shoulders.

No. 5 *Couïture en perle*: one row passes over the head, and loses itself in the rolls of hair; two large Italian pins serve to sustain the hair, and are mounted with large beads of pearl.

THE THEATRES.

OLYMPIC.—A new piece, entitled "Tit for Tat," was produced on Monday. It is a version of "Les Maris me font toujours Rire," by MM. Delacour and Jaimes fils, which we understand has been made by Mr. Talfourd. The transformation has been cleverly executed; for the piece owes all its success to the dialogue. The story is facile to excess, and the structure entirely exceptional. It is in two acts, and each act is a separate play. In the first Mr. Robson is thrown, as usual, into a fit of jealousy; and in the second revenges himself on his tormentor, Mr. Wigan, by repaying the compliment. Such an arrangement is at least new. But we have so frequently had occasion to describe Mr. Robson under the influence of "the green-eyed monster," that we have really nothing to add. Something we might have said to Mr. Wigan's portraiture of the same passion, but he has not a fair opportunity afforded in the second act of competing with the hero of the first. He necessarily comes off second best. The story, however, culminates, if the acting does not; and the retorts of the dialogue and the surprises of the situations are rare specimens of stage arrangement. The only drawback to the enjoyment of the action is the eternal intrigue that forms the no-interest of pieces derived from the French. The want of originality in this particular is an alarming symptom of the decay of invention. But the vivacity of the treatment atoned for the defects of the subject, and secured the success of the drama.

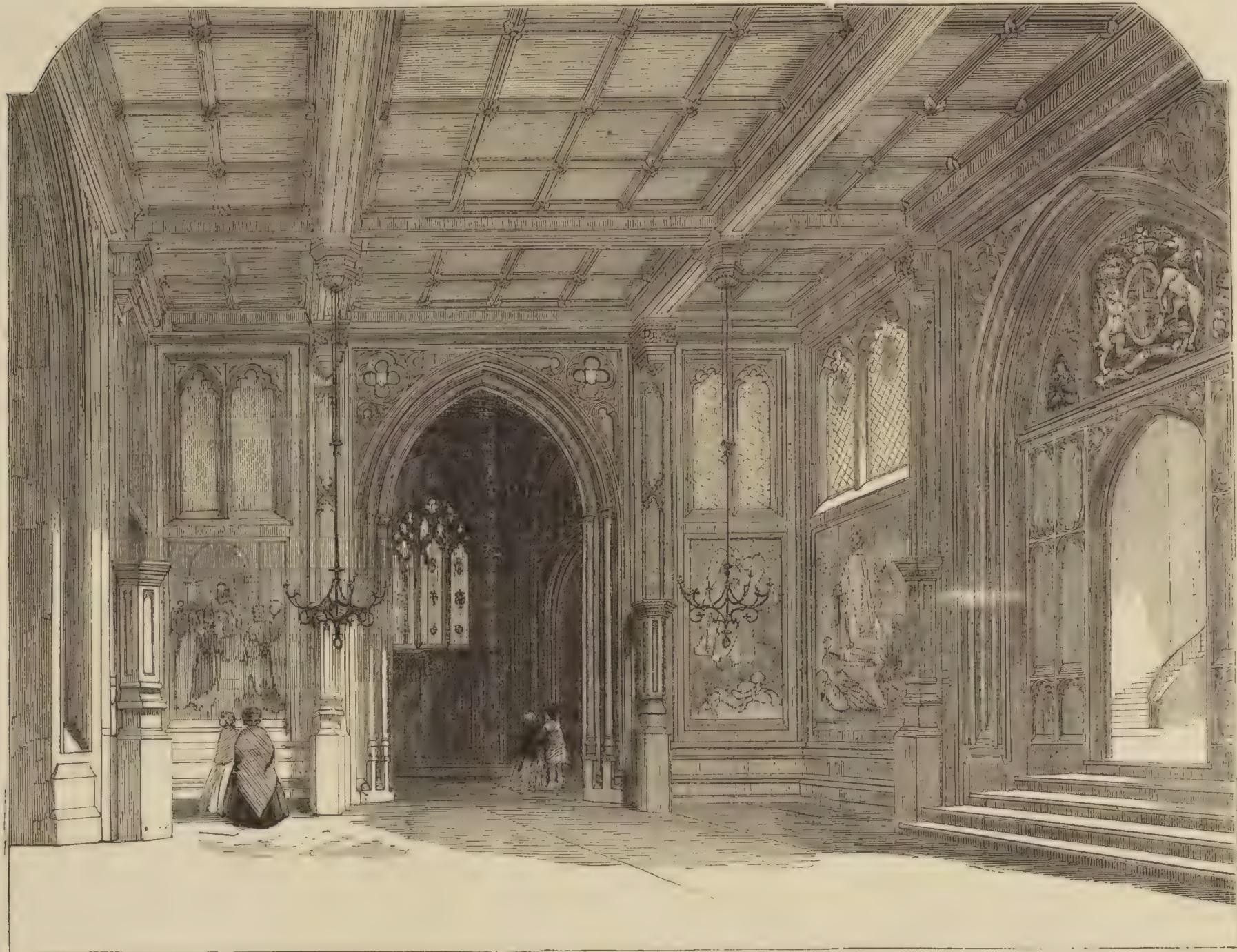
A RUSSIAN STRATAGEM.—A flag of truce came in last night from the enemy, with a request that all similar flags might in future be received at the parallel now constructing in front of the Second Division. This request Lord Raglan instantly refused. His Lordship added that all flags must be received at the broken bridge on the Tchernaya-road, and at no other place. To receive flags of truce in front of the Second Division would be entirely to open our Camp to the enemy's view; which, without doubt, was the object of the request.—*Letter from the English Camp, Jan. 8.*

RELIGIOUS EXPENDITURE AT BOSTON, UNITED STATES.—It is estimated that the current expenses of the churches in Boston will amount to 240,000 dollars a year. The value of the church estates is about 4,000,000 dollars. The expenses of the different societies vary from 1500 dollars to 5000 dollars a year. The cost for public worship in the churches occupied by the wealthier portion of the citizens will average about 100 dollars a Sunday; the clergyman has a salary of 3000 dollars, the music costs about 1000 dollars, and the miscellaneous expenses will be from 1000 dollars to 1500 dollars a year. The taxes on the pews vary from 8 dollars to 70 dollars a year, according to their value. The Methodist preachers have the smallest average salaries, and Unitarians the largest.

The municipality of Bordeaux, in consequence of the dearth of wine, has entered into an arrangement with a company for establishing places for the sale of beer at 30c. the quart, and it has reduced the octroi duties on beer to one-third of the former charge.

The Prefect of the Seine has courteously presented to the London Sewers Commission the copy of two records relating to the distribution of the waters of Paris, and also the report of M. Mille on the mode of cleansing the towns of Great Britain.

THE NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS.



THE DIVISION LOBBY.



THE SMOKING-ROOM.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

THE NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE UPPER WAITING-HALL.

This is a handsome portion of the new Palace, and has a pleasing effect, terminating the fine staircase leading to it. Its proportions are nearly square; its ceiling is of oak, divided into compartments, and by four massive beams, at whose intersections are octangular pendants, from which are suspended neat brass branches for gas, of four burners each. The pedestals on each side of the doors and fireplace are to bear a statue in the course of time. When this is done the effect will be complete. Already the walls under the windows are filled up with eight beautiful frescoes—the subjects taken from our celebrated poets. It may not be amiss to mention these, as they strike the eye on entering the hall:—The first on the left of the doorway, opposite to the stranger, is "King Lear apportioning his kingdom between his daughters," from Shakespeare's play of "King Lear." This is by Herbert. The next on the right is "Satan touched by Ithuriel's spear," from "Paradise Lost," and is painted by Horsley. The next subject is "St. Cecilia," by Tenniel; and, on the other side of the door is the "Personification of the Thames," by Armitage. "The Death of Marmion," by Armitage, is the next; and, corresponding with it, is "The Death of Lara," by Cope. On each side the fireplace we have the subjects of "Griselda's First Trial of Patience," by Cope; and "The Red Cross Knight Slaying the Dragon," by Watts. These subjects are all well handled by the respective artists, and fully prove how much may be done in wall-decoration in this style of art. The windows of the Hall are filled in with small diaper-pattern panes. Near the top of the window, under the tracery, is some stained glass, containing the monogram "V. R." in a small border of neat design. Over the fireplace and the opposite doorway, leading to various committee-rooms, is sculptured the Royal Arms.

THE SMOKING-ROOM.

This is a truly handsome room, and shows how carefully the architect has studied the comfort of the members. It is about 50 feet long, divided into two divisions by piers, upon which are rendered, at the angles, small columns, between which are sunken panels. The ceiling is of oak, panelled; the centre panels being painted, bearing the rose, fleur-de-lis, and portcullis alternately. The walls are painted of a neat light tint, reaching to within about five feet of the ground. They are then lined with encaustic tiles, of pale green and white, in elegant patterns. There are three arched recesses, in which are placed long seats covered with dark green leather, well stuffed: in front of these there is a small oak table. In the centre of the first division, which might be termed an ambulatory, is a square stove, having three openings or grates for fires: it is of iron, nicely ornamented on the cheeks, and topped by a richly-veined marble slab.

The other division, as seen in our Drawing, is occupied by seats and tables, similar to those in the recesses; the floor is laid with encaustic tiles and Castlehill stone; the feet of the visitors are protected from the chill of the tiles by handsome rugs. A more complete room for its purpose is, perhaps, not to be found—there is so little in it that will retain the scent of smoke. Yet there is an air of real comfort about it. The view from the windows is across the Thames, looking over the broad esplanade; to which there is ready access from this room, and of which the members, on a summer's evening, avail themselves, during the intervals of a long debate. There is a bell in the room which communicates from above, and announces to members the approach of a division, and as its shrill notes ring on the ear, hon. gentlemen may be seen hurrying up the stairs to the division lobby to give their vote, long settled in their minds. The approaches to the room are from a door near the corridor of the Commons' Library and from the Refreshment-room, both by the same staircase. Its management is in the hands of Mr. Steers, of the refreshment department.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

Parliament met for the first time since the recess:

THE VOTE OF THANKS TO THE NAVY.

The LORD CHANCELLOR read the following letter to their Lordships:—My Lord—I have had the honour this day to receive your letter dated the 18th ult., transmitting the resolutions of the House of Lords expressive of the high sense it entertains of the valuable services rendered by myself and by the officers, seamen, and marines of the fleet lately under my command.

Having, on the 31st ult., transferred my command to Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons, I have transmitted a copy of your letter to him, and the resolutions of the House of Lords have been made known to the several officers who were serving under me.

I have also, in obedience to the order of the House, forwarded to Admiral Hamelin the resolutions thanking that officer and the French navy for their cordial co-operation in the various services in which the combined fleet have been engaged; and, as Admiral Hamelin has also transferred his command, I have sent copies to Vice-Admiral Brutus for communication to the French navy.

The high honour and distinction the House of Lords has thus been pleased to confer on myself, the officers, seamen, and marines of the fleet lately under my command, will be received by all with deep gratitude and respect; and I have to beg your Lordship will be pleased to accept my sincere thanks for the generous terms in which you have conveyed to me the resolutions of the House.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,

J. W. D. DUNDAS, Vice-Admiral.

On the motion of the Noble and Learned Lord, the above letter was ordered to be entered on the minutes of the House.

THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH gave notice that on Monday, in moving for certain returns, he should make some observations on the general conduct of the war.

Earl GREY gave notice of his intention to move on Tuesday, the 6th of February, that an humble address should be presented to her Majesty on the subject of the office of the Minister of War.

THE BLACK SEA.

The Marquis of SALISBURY gave notice that he would call the attention of the Government to the statements which had appeared in the public prints relative to the Black Sea.

THE CRIMEAN MEDAL.

In reply to the Duke of Richmond, the Duke of NEWCASTLE stated that her Majesty had been graciously pleased to grant the decoration of a clasp to the officers and men engaged at the battle of Balaclava. Some conversation took place respecting the incidents of that encounter, and the gallantry of the troops who took part in it.

THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

The Earl of WINCHILSEA gave notice that on Thursday he should call the attention of the House to the course Government had pursued with respect to the war in the Crimea, and that he would afford the Duke of Newcastle an opportunity to make explanations of a statement that a reporter of one of the leading journals had gone out under the authority and sanction of her Majesty's Government, and that the whole or a portion of his expenses had been defrayed out of the public purse.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER: I wish to state, on the part of the Government, that it is my intention, on Monday next, to propose a resolution in Committee of the whole House with the view to the introduction of a measure relating to the law on Newspaper Stamps (Hear, hear). I also intend, upon a very early day, to move for leave to bring in a bill to improve the Act of 1834 in several particulars, commonly called the Superannuation Act, relating to pensions for civil service.

THE LIGHT CAVALRY CHARGE AT BALACLAVA.

Mr. C. BERKELEY gave notice of his intention to ask the Secretary-at-War whether the order which had been published in all the newspapers as emanating from Lord Raglan to Lord Lucan for the Light Cavalry to make the disastrous charge at Balaclava was the correct order or not (Hear, hear). It ran thus:—"Lord Raglan wishes the cavalry to advance rapidly to the front, follow the enemy, and try to prevent their carrying away the guns. The French cavalry is on the left." He hoped the right hon. gentleman would name a day for giving an answer whether that was the correct order or not.

Mr. S. HERBERT: If the hon. gentleman will name any day on which he wishes to put those questions, I will be prepared to answer them.

Mr. BERKELEY: Thursday.

EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.

Lord J. RUSSELL: I beg to give notice that on Friday I will move for leave to bring in a bill for the Promotion of Education in England (Hear, hear).

NAVY ESTIMATES.

Lord J. RUSSELL: I may take this opportunity of stating that the Navy Estimate will be on the table of the House in the course of a day

or two, and that my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Admiralty will propose to go into Committee on those estimates on Friday sc'might.

LAW OF PARTNERSHIP.

Mr. CARDWELL: On Monday next I shall move for leave to bring in a bill to amend the Law of Partnership (Hear, hear).

THE NEGOTIATIONS AT VIENNA.

Mr. LAYARD asked whether there would be any objection on the part of the Government to lay before the House copies of the correspondence which had taken place with Foreign Powers with regard to the treaty of the 2nd of December, 1854, and especially any document communicated to the Russian Government containing the interpretation placed by the British and French Governments upon the Four Points—not for negotiation, but acceptance?

Lord J. RUSSELL: I cannot at present say whether it will be possible to lay upon the table any of the correspondence to which the hon. gentleman has adverted. With respect to the correspondence generally, I should say that it would be inconvenient to the public service to lay it on the table. But there may be one or two papers, in the shape of reports, which it may be possible to lay before this House; and I will consider this point before I give a final answer. I may state generally what has occurred in respect to the Four Points, and in what state the question stands at present (Hear, hear). At the end of November the Russian Government instructed their Minister at Vienna to declare their acceptance of what are called the Four Points. On the 2nd of December a treaty was signed between France, England, and Austria. On the 28th of December a meeting was held of the Ministers of France, England, and Austria, at Vienna, with Prince Gortschakoff, the Minister of Russia. At that meeting the French Minister read (on the part of France, England, and Austria) the interpretation which the three Powers put upon the Four Points, to be considered as bases of negotiation. I will mention only, with respect to the third point, that it was proposed by that interpretation to put an end to the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea. Prince Gortschakoff stated that he could not adhere to those interpretations; but that he would request further instructions from his Government. He afterwards informed Count Buol that he had received those instructions; and on the 7th or 8th of January another meeting was held, at the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, at Vienna. At that meeting Prince Gortschakoff read a memorandum which he said he had received, and which contained the views of his Government. It was replied by Count Buol, Lord Westmoreland, and Baron Bourqueney, that they had no authority to receive any such memorandum, and that they must require, as bases of negotiation, the consent of the Russian Plenipotentiary to the interpretation, of which we had also received a note. The Russian Plenipotentiary, Lord Westmoreland states in his despatch, then withdrew the memorandum which he had read, and declared his acceptance, on the part of his Government, of the interpretation as the bases of negotiation. My honourable friend will understand by that that the Russian Minister accepted these interpretations as the bases of negotiation, of course reserving to himself the power, when those bases were laid down into articles, to make any observations on the part of his Government which he might think proper. The Government of her Majesty have declared that they are ready to enter into negotiation on those bases; but hitherto no full power has been given to our Minister at Vienna to negotiate upon them.

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY asked if the Government would have any objection to lay before the House a copy of the Protocol signed on the 28th of December by the Three great Powers, explaining the Four Points as contained in the note of the 8th of August, 1854.

Mr. LAYARD: Before the noble Lord answers that question, perhaps he will allow me to ask whether the House is to understand from his statement that the negotiations are actually going on, or are suspended for a time (Hear, hear)?

Lord J. RUSSELL: With respect to the question of the hon. Baronet, I beg to say that that is the point I reserved for consideration. I doubt whether that document can now be properly laid on the table of the House. As to the last question, I beg to say that negotiations are not yet begun upon the bases I have stated.

Mr. BRIGHT: I understood the noble Lord to say that certain terms had been offered to Russia, about which there had been understood to be some difficulty, but that Russia had accepted them. The noble Lord expressed it in this manner, "That Russia had consented to put an end to her preponderance in the Black Sea." The noble Lord, I suppose, will not withdraw from the House the hope that instructions are about to be sent out for the purpose of opening negotiations (Hear, hear). I think the House and the country will be very glad if the noble Lord can state that a distinct proposition having been accepted, as distinctly as it was made, instructions for negotiation will be sent off (Hear, hear).

Lord J. RUSSELL: I have already stated that the Government have expressed their readiness to negotiate on those Four Points.

STATE OF THE ARMY, &c.

Mr. H. DRUMMOND gave notice that on Thursday he should move for some returns by means of which he should endeavour to separate some of many complications and disasters in which our army at present found itself; and he was sorry he was not able to do this without certain papers. He should move that there be laid before the House an account of the munitions and stores provided for the army before the troops left this country; also copies of any reports received before the same period of the nature and strength of the fortifications at Sebastopol, the numbers and force of the garrison there, and the number and distribution of the Russian forces in the surrounding provinces. Also the amount of accommodation for the sick and wounded at Seutari, and the means for transporting them from the Crimea (Hear, hear). Also a copy of the instructions sent from this country to the persons in charge of the medical and other stores; together with returns as to the commissariat service, &c. (Hear, hear).

Mr. ROEBUCK gave notice that on Thursday he should move for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the condition of our army before Sebastopol, and into the conduct of those departments of the Government whose duty it was to minister to the wants of that army (Hear);

Mr. ADAIR, on the 6th of February, to move to address her Majesty on the progress and maintenance of the present war;

Mr. RICH, on the 6th of February, to move for a Select Committee to inquire into the efficiency of our military academies and other provisions for preparing officers for regimental and staff appointments;

Mr. COLLIER, on Thursday, to call the attention of the House to the state of our trade with Russia.

BURIAL ACTS.

Mr. A. PELLATT gave notice to move (Feb. 6) for a Committee to inquire into the operation of the various Burial Acts and Proprietary Cemetery Acts, also into the regulations of the Home-office for conducting interments under the Burial Acts.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Sir B. HALL, in asking leave to bring in a bill to alter and amend the Public Health Act, premised that, if he obtained permission to bring in his bill, he designed to refer the measure, together with the auxiliary bill for amending the Nuisances Removal Act, to a Select Committee, for examination and remission. After describing the various bills and propositions which had been successively laid before Parliament, with the view of improving the sanitary condition of the country, the right hon. Baronet proceeded to explain the provisions of his present bill, by which he proposed to repeal all former Acts, to remodel the constitution of the Board of Health, and simplify the working machinery of surveyors, inspectors, and engineers, through whose agency the decisions of the Board were carried into effect. Entering into somewhat minute details respecting the changes which he purposed to effect in existing arrangements, Sir B. Hall stated that the chief alteration referred to the mode whereby the bill was to be put in operation in any given locality. This was to be done, not, as heretofore, upon the invitation of one-tenth of the rate-paying inhabitants, but by that of a clear majority of votes recorded at some public meeting, and authenticated, if required, by a general poll throughout the district. Compulsory powers were, however, to be given to the Board to interfere for the sanitary improvement of places where the registered mortality exceeded the proportion of 28 per annum to every 1000 of population. Further provisions, he observed, were introduced into the bill for the purpose of obviating the necessity of applying for a special Act on behalf of every town or district whose inhabitants might wish to bring themselves within the jurisdiction of the Board of Health; for regulating the construction of new streets and houses, so as to secure the fulfilment of certain sanitary conditions; and for defining the powers and duties of local boards. He suggested that the Bill should continue in force for a period of two years, by which time its character and operation would be sufficiently tested.

After a few words from Mr. WILLIAMS, leave was given to bring in the bill.

Mr. BERKELEY gave notice of his intention to ask the Secretary-at-War whether the order which had been published in all the newspapers as emanating from Lord Raglan to Lord Lucan for the Light Cavalry to make the disastrous charge at Balaclava was the correct order or not (Hear, hear). It ran thus:—"Lord Raglan wishes the cavalry to advance rapidly to the front, follow the enemy, and try to prevent their carrying away the guns. The French cavalry is on the left." He hoped the right hon. gentleman would name a day for giving an answer whether that was the correct order or not.

Mr. S. HERBERT: If the hon. gentleman will name any day on which he wishes to put those questions, I will be prepared to answer them.

Mr. BERKELEY: Thursday.

EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.

Lord J. RUSSELL: I beg to give notice that on Friday I will move for leave to bring in a bill for the Promotion of Education in England (Hear, hear).

NAVY ESTIMATES.

Lord J. RUSSELL: I may take this opportunity of stating that the Navy Estimate will be on the table of the House in the course of a day

facts, showing the necessity of preventing the accumulation of unwholesome materials, the stoppage of drains, and obstruction of ventilation, on one hand, and the benefit which resulted from care bestowed upon those particulars on the other, the right hon. Baronet explained the method by which he proposed to make public provision for that purpose, intimating generally that the system of inspection at present existing in the city of London would form the model of his arrangements for the whole of the metropolis.

After a few words from Mr. WILKINSON, Mr. THORNELY, Sir H. WILLOUGHBY, and other members, leave was given to bring in the bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at twelve o'clock.

The SPEAKER read the following letter from Lord RAGLAN, acknowledging the vote of thanks passed to the Army by the House of Commons:—

Before Sebastopol, Jan. 7, 1855.

Sir,—I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 18th of December, transmitting the resolutions of the House of Commons, and requesting me to communicate them to the officers and men of the British army, and General Canrobert, and I beg to acquaint you that I have fulfilled your instructions, and am proud of having been charged with so agreeable a commission. The officers and men of the British army derive the highest gratification from the knowledge that their gallant exertions in the cause in which they are engaged have been honoured by the approval of the Representatives of the British nation, and they accept with feelings of the deepest gratitude the unanimous thanks of the House of Commons. I shall best make known to the House the sentiments entertained by General Canrobert of the public recognition of the brilliant achievements of the French army in cordial co-operation with the troops of her Majesty, by transmitting to you a copy of his Excellency's letter in reply to my communication, and the general order in which he announced to the army under his command the resolutions of the House, and expressed his due appreciation of the thanks they conveyed. I trust you will be so good as to acquaint the House that I am deeply sensible of the great distinction it has conferred upon me in noticing my services, and that you will yourself accept my warmest acknowledgments for the manner in which you have performed the duty of communicating to me its resolutions. I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, your most obedient servant, RAGLAN.

The letter of General Canrobert alluded to by the Speaker was not read.

Colonel NORTH moved for a return of the quantity of coffee, roasted and ground, sent to the army in the Crimea previous to the 22nd day of December last, specifying the ships in which it was sent, and the date of departure of those ships from this country.—Agreed to.

Mr. J. GREENE moved for a Select Committee to consider the cheapest, most expeditious, and most efficient mode of providing for the printing required for the Houses of Parliament and the public service; to consist of Mr. MUNIZ, Mr. HADFIELD, Mr. L. VERNON, Mr. HAMILTON, Mr. HANKEY, Mr. CRAUFORD, Mr. J. GREENE, Lord SEYMOUR, Mr. V. SMITH, Mr. GREGSON, Mr. WILKINSON, Mr. CROSSLEY, Mr. WILSON, Mr. THORNELY, and Mr. WALTER—with power to send for persons, papers, and records; five to be the quorum.—Agreed to.

The House adjourned at half-past twelve.

(Continued on page 82)

THE POLES AND THE CONSCRIPTION.—The persecution of the Polish fugitives who have crossed into Prussia with the view of escaping the Russian conscription is being carried on unrelentingly by the authorities of the former State. Count Von Westarp, a provincial judge in the southern part of Upper Silesia, gave directions on the 11th ult. to the subordinate officials of his district to arrest thirty-nine individuals, advertised as conscript deserters by Russia, and on ascertaining their identity to deliver them up forthwith to the Russian authorities in Poland. That even the poorest classes in Poland continue to dread and loathe the Russian military service is shown by the circumstance that all the thirty-nine individuals in question except two of them, who are Jews, are merely day labourers, poor workmen, and household servants.

A SERGEANT A CENTURY OLD.—There is at present living in Exeter a sergeant, named Thomas Sealright, who, in October of the present year, will be 100 years old. He served in the 39th Foot, 26th Foot, and 2nd Garrison Battalion for a period of forty years and two months, and has actually been a pensioner since the 13th of December, 1802, more than 52 years. He served in the army under Lord Cornwallis in the American War of Independence in the year 1782, when the troops capitulated to the united armies of France and America, under General Washington. At that time he had been upwards of twenty years in the service, so that he may be said to have almost passed his life in the Army, and it is believed that he is the oldest man at present connected with it. A short time since he was presented by Lieutenant-Colonel Rogers with a medal for the victories in Egypt, a remembrance of his services which he highly prizes

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

PRESENTATION OF A SWORD TO GENERAL
SIR DE LACY EVANS, K.C.B.

The first public recognition of this gallant officer's services since his return to England from the Crimea, took place on Monday at Folkestone, when a congratulatory Address, accompanied by a sword valued at 150 guineas, was presented to him by a deputation from the inhabitants of the united Parliamentary borough of Hythe, Folkestone, and Sandgate. The presentation took place at one o'clock in one of the large saloons of the Pavilion Hotel. The deputation was headed by Mr. Brockman, M.P. for the district, and included about sixty gentlemen, among whom were the Mayor of Hythe (Mr. Moneypeyne), the Mayor of Folkestone (Mr. Mackie), Colonel Sandilands, Mr. Lacon (Comptroller of Customs at Folkestone), the churchwardens of the several parishes, and the aldermen and councillors of Hythe and Folkestone, &c. The deputation, having been introduced, were received with marked courtesy by the gallant General.

Mr. Brockman (addressing Sir De Lacy Evans) said:—I have been requested, in the name of the inhabitants of the united district of Hythe, Folkestone, and Sandgate, to present a congratulatory address to you upon your return to your native country, after a career in a foreign land, which, although brief, has been brilliant and patriotic. We have been anxious not to lose a moment in doing honour to a gallant and distinguished officer; and we confess ourselves gratified to find that the "Men of Kent" are first in the field, as they certainly yield to none in their admiration of your bravery and patriotism. I have for years been your intimate friend; and it is a subject of high gratification to me that in every company of Englishmen your name is received with expressions of honour and exultation. We venture to ask you to honour us by accepting this sword, in testimony of our admiration of the manner in which you have used its kindred weapons for more than half a century. After apologising for his want of eloquence in performing the task he had undertaken, Mr. Brockman read the Address as follows:

TO GENERAL SIR DE LACY EVANS, K.C.B., M.P., ETC.

Sir,—We, the inhabitants of Hythe, Folkestone, Sandgate, and adjacent parishes, forming the Parliamentary borough, take the opportunity your sojourn among us affords to express our satisfaction that your health is sufficiently restored to allow of your receiving our congratulations on this occasion.

We welcome you back with heartfelt pleasure from the seat of war—a war maintained for the cause of justice, and the independence of nations, accompanied, alas! as it has been by disease and privations, but borne with constancy and patience. It is with pride (mingled with deep grief for the noble hearts that have throbbed their last in the gallant actions of Alma, the heights of Tchernaya, and Inkermann) that we have traced the passages of danger and death through which has shone conspicuously your energetic mind, self-abandonment in sickness to attend the call of duty, and generous self-denial in the hour of victory.

We gratefully thank the Almighty dispenser of all good for your safe return to England, to Lady Evans, your family and friends, and trust that many years of peace and happiness (crowned as they must be by glorious recollections of difficulties and perils overcome during your long and brilliant career, and the consciousness of having deserved the gratitude of your country and the respect of posterity) may still be in store for you, and may enable that country still further to be indebted to you for the counsels which experience so hardly obtained must enable you to furnish in the continued prosecution of her battles.

Honour us, sir, by accepting this outward token of our esteem. It represents not the measure of your deserts, nor our appreciation of your worth.

Folkestone, Jan. 22, 1855.

The Address having been handed to Sir De Lacy Evans,

The gallant General said, he could assure the gentlemen forming the deputation, and the inhabitants of the district generally, that he felt most highly gratified at the compliment which had been paid to him. He believed that all men felt pleasure in visiting their home after an absence in foreign countries, particularly in critical times; and it certainly could not fail to afford him additional satisfaction to receive such a cordial welcome on the very spot where he had landed. He was well assured that the compliment was not intended for himself alone, but that it was also an exemplification of feeling for the gallant army with which he had the honour of serving. He had observed that great complaints were daily made of the management of the war, and it was asserted that the war had made but slow progress. Now he begged to differ with many on that point. He did not consider, under the circumstances, that the progress of the war had been slow, and he was sure that the result would show the correctness of his opinion. No such war as that in which they were now engaged could possibly be finished in so short a time as some were unreasonable enough to expect, particularly where such a country as England, with its small military strength, was not the aggressor. England was not a military power; and the aggressor in the present war was a very important military power, possessed of vast resources (hears)—one who always maintained a very large army, and was always prepared for war, if not, indeed, for aggression. Hence, at the sudden outbreak of the present hostilities, England had not been prepared with a large standing army. It was impossible we could always have a perfect war establishment on a military scale. We had happily enjoyed forty years of peace, and opinions would not admit of the continued maintenance of a large standing army. He would recall to their minds the many military wars in which this country had been engaged, and it would be found that the British forces seldom attained decisive success until at least a third campaign had set in. He might instance the war which immediately followed the breaking out of the French Revolution. England was great and powerful as a commercial nation, and he had no doubt that the present contest would bring to a termination as decisive in its results as it would be glorious to British arms. The army sent to the Crimea, though young, had vindicated the honour of its country. There was no other army to send. It was young, but it had done its duty. Many mistakes in details had certainly occurred, but they had been the result of inexperience. No want of judgment, in his mind, had been evinced by any officer in that staff in which he had had the honour of holding an humble post. Some battles had been fought in which our army had gathered glory in alliance with the arms of France—an alliance he would pronounce the most devoted and loyal, and which the spirit of this country fully appreciated. He again begged to return them his best thanks; and at the present moment he almost wished he was not a soldier, as he might then have been a better orator. Having returned home, however, he was glad to find that his humble exertions had been considered deserving of acknowledgement, and he thanked them from the bottom of his heart.

Mr. R. Hart, one of the deputation, asked permission to call the attention of the gallant General to the present condition of our army in the East. He was not desirous of drawing forth any expression of opinion which Sir De Lacy Evans, as an officer, might feel desirous of withholding; but the fact could not be disguised, that notwithstanding the great generosity of the people of these kingdoms, the army at present in the Crimea was in a most wretched condition.

Sir De Lacy Evans observed that he had of late read many statements on the condition of the troops. It was not his province, on that occasion, to enter into this question; but he had no objection to say one thing, and that was, that when he left head-quarters the army was not in the condition described in some reports. More he could not say. He would again remind them that at the commencement of a war many mistakes generally took place, and after forty years' peace such mistakes ought not to occasion much surprise. He would take this opportunity of saying that he fully appreciated the kind sympathy now so generously evinced by all classes for the army, and he had no doubt the course of conduct pursued by the people would be the forerunner of great results.

The deputation then retired.

Sir De Lacy Evans, though much improved since his arrival at the Pavilion, is still in very imperfect health.

CHRISTMAS IN THE CRIMEA.—Well, and what do you think I was doing when I received your letter on Christmas-eve? Why, mixing batter for pancakes, and Waller was frying them. Of course, when letters were announced, down went spoon, tin, and everything else, until I had heard from the dear ones I have left behind. We are three in mess together, and, having had so much salt pork and junk lately, we determined to have something extra for Christmas, so we started one of our men off to Balaklava, where he purchased 6lbs. of flour for 6s. and 3lbs. of plums for 4s., which is rather dear. So having had our fill of pancakes, the next consideration was how to make the Christmas pudding—and this was a teaser. However, we picked the plums, and got them mixed with the flour. In place of suet, we cut up pieces of salt fat pork very fine, which being also amalgamated with the other ingredients, our pudding was complete as to making. Now, as to cooking it, we found an old camp kettle, which, having pierced with our bayonets, and filled with charcoal (now allowed as fuel), formed our stove. On this we placed another camp kettle with our pudding in, and left it to boil for three hours, when it was pronounced done; so off with it, and on went the frying-pan, with some slices of fat pork and fresh meat (the first we have had for six weeks) and some onions, which made a very savoury mess, I assure you. Our dinner being now ready, we were in want of something to wash it down, but having neither spirits, wine, porter, nor tea, we went on the frying-pan again to roast some green coffee (by the by, I have just finished roasting and grinding a bottle full of that same article), which being roasted, one of us gets a large stone which is worked hollow in the centre. Into it the coffee is put, and a 42-pound shot rolled over it until the coffee is sufficiently crushed, when it is put into the mess tin, and with due quantum of sugar, to boil; and so our Christmas-dinner is ready, and I can assure you that we were ready also, and enjoyed our dinner as well as the circumstances would allow. While eating my dinner it made me think of dear old England and the happy Christmas I spent there last year, and where I hope to spend the next.—L.L. from the English Camp, Dec. 25.

HOW THEY GET ON IN THE FAR WEST.

The proposed interference of the people, rather than the Government, of the United States, with the affairs of Europe, has increased the interest which the inhabitants of the Old World take in the progress of the New. Little more than seventy years ago they were the British North American Colonies—emphatically, "our plantations," containing about 3,500,000 people. In 1790, when the first Census was taken, there were under the Federal Government 3,929,872; in 1850, at the last Census, there were 23,191,074; and now there are probably nearly 26,000,000. The population, therefore, has increased sixfold in less than sixty-four years. It doubles itself in about twenty-four years. In the period between 1790 and 1851 the population of Great Britain increased from about 9,800,000 to 21,000,000, or it increased two and one-seventh fold. The population of the United States, therefore, has increased almost three times as fast as the population of Great Britain, and is now increasing in the same or a still greater ratio. But in no other country of Europe has the population increased half as fast as in Great Britain. In many of the countries of Europe population is almost, and in some completely, stationary. Thus the population of the United States has increased at least six times as fast as any State in Europe except Great Britain. This increase is not, as in Russia, the consequence of conquest. In 1803 the acquisition of Louisiana, by purchase, added some fifteen or twenty thousand to the population; but the other acquisitions of territory—such as Texas, California, part of New Mexico—brought with them very few people, except as persons were tempted to settle in these places after they were acquired by the States. The extension of their dominion has been in general over unpeopled lands, and they have not at the same time conquered and incorporated large populations. The increase of people is mainly due to natural fecundity and—but in a much less degree—to immigration. There is no other example in modern times of such a rapid and continuous increase of people, and there is good ground for believing that nothing like it ever before took place in any part of the world. Never before had such skill and knowledge as the Americans carried with them from Europe an opportunity for displaying the power of production on an abundance of fertile unoccupied land, and we may therefore rest assured that never in any age did population increase for the long period of seventy years so rapidly as in the United States. The example of the neighbouring country of Mexico, the example of the Indians who still rove in the fertile valley of the Amazon, and over various parts of America in much the same condition as when that continent was first discovered, demonstrate that plenty of room or of unappropriated land and all the material elements of wealth are not of themselves sufficient to cause or encourage the growth of population. Man is fed and life nourished by labour; and the steady, skilful application of labour, to provide subsistence, and all other things necessary to keep the body in health and vigour, makes all the difference between the Anglo-American inhabitants of the States, the Spanish American inhabitants of Mexico, and the Indians scattered over the whole of the new continent. To skilful industry the people of the United States owe all their greatness. In what degree their exertions may have been protected and encouraged by their form of government, is not at present a question: we put aside all political considerations to pay attention to the undoubted fact that the wonderful increase of the people in the States, their prosperity and power, are due to skilful and steady industry.

The total slave population of the Federal Union is now about 3,300,000, scattered over sixteen of the thirty-one States, and over two of the five Territories which constitute it. But in New Jersey there are only a few slave apprentices, on the way to abolition; in Delaware, Utah, Maryland, and Missouri the number is comparatively small; and the bulk of them are in Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Kentucky. The plague is mainly confined to nine States, and they are not the most flourishing. The chief source of the national prosperity is not the industry of slaves, but of free men. Even in the States where slavery exists there is a great deal of free labour, and to it especially is due the general progress. For many years no slaves have been imported, and all the immigration has been of free men. Nevertheless, the slaves have increased nearly as fast as the free population—a pretty certain sign that at least their material comforts are cared for. In 1790 there were 697,897, and in 1850, 3,204,067—an increase of nearly fivefold; in 1790 the free population was 3,231,975, and in 1850, 19,987,107—an increase of more than sixfold. The free population, however, exists in all the States, and as it increases comparatively slowly in the nine chief slave States, in them the slaves increase the fastest. With the exception of the States of Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and one or two other slave States, the increase of population is not proportionately so great as the increase of population in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and in other States, where there are no slaves. In the slave States the slaves increase most; in other States the increase is all of free men, which makes the contrast stronger. Even if it were otherwise, as the slaves make little or no progress in improvement—the worst feature of slavery—the whole progress in the States may be attributed to the free population. These latter have not only ample room; they not only possess a knowledge of all the useful arts of Europe; they are free to exert themselves in every direction; and individually and collectively, they are undoubtedly the most energetic and steadily industrious people—not even excepting ourselves—now on the earth. Hence their shipping—to which we are indebted for many improvements in our shipping—almost equals ours in tonnage; and next to it is by far the largest mercantile marine in the world. Hence their railroads, though generally laid down with only one pair of rails, and destitute of all the architectural works which have found a place on European rails, much exceed in length those of our country; and hence the telegraph, there communicating with almost every town, is almost as much and as commonly used by the whole people as the post is here. Descending from these general statements, we will set before our readers, as a specimen of the whole, the growth of one town.

On the southern shore of Lake Michigan, which has a water communication to the south with the Mississippi, the West Indies, and the whole southern hemisphere, and to the north-east with the St. Lawrence, all the British North American colonies, and all parts of Europe, there was founded, somewhere about 1830, the town of Chicago. It is not the only town in the neighbourhood, for there are others on the same lake, and one of them, Milwaukee, not more than ninety miles from it, is growing perhaps as fast as Chicago; but of this latter only we shall now speak. In 1840 it had only 4479 inhabitants; in 1850 they numbered 29,963, though no gold mines had been found in the neighbourhood. There run from it, connecting it with great trunk lines of rails, twelve railroads, 2416 miles in length; and it has, moreover, sixteen branches of railways and extensions, running 1130 miles. By railroads it is united to Mobile, in the Gulf of Mexico, and with Philadelphia, New York, and all the eastern States. The construction of these rails has added, since 1850, so much to the population, that the number is now supposed to amount to nearly 50,000. In 1851 the value of its imports was 24,166,000 dollars, and of its exports 10,000,000 dollars. In 1853 it received from the country around it, and sent forward to New York and other places, to be distributed in part over Europe, nearly 14,000,000 bushels of grain of all kinds, and flour; besides unknown numbers of barrels of beef, and pork, and lard, and hams—the grain alone being greater in quantity than proceeds, on an average, from any of the great shipping ports of the Old World, including Odessa. From Chicago the quantity exported is increasing year by year. It is only one, though the chief, of several depots for the spare agricultural produce of upwards of 1,000,000 people, who within

twenty years have planted themselves or have grown up in the fertile lands that lie to the west of Lake Michigan, and now, in the several States of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Arkansas, Missouri, &c., are increasing at the rate of several hundred thousand a year. Being a kind of commercial metropolis for them, as they multiply and fill the broad lands that stretch to the Pacific, Chicago promises to become one of the largest inland cities of the world, nowhere rivalled, except by such huge cities as London and Paris, and the fabulously large towns of China. It is already a great place, formed by the hand of labour in twenty years, having in it all the conveniences of a European town of the first class, abounding in newspapers, speaking by telegraph, and running by rail to every part of the Federal Union.

Now let us go a step lower, and look at the industry in an individual which, when exercised by the multitude, is the means of accomplishing all these wonders. It has been remarked, with some acuteness, in order to console mankind for a present asserted inferiority to the ancients, that the "Pyramids were built by men like ourselves." In like manner, we may find not merely consolation, but encouragement, and even delight, in noticing that the prairies of the Far West are cultivated; that railroads are made over the whole of North America; that the desert is crowded with towns filled with all the elegances of life—the flourishing abodes of trade, art, and literature, by patient and energetic industry, such as is possessed in common by the multitude in Europe and in America. Nay, the very men who, in the former, rust, waste, and are destroyed, in the latter are roused to exertion; and their labour—cramped, impeded, and fruitless in Europe—in America converts the wilderness into a blooming garden, and the desert into a crowded city. About the year 1806 there was born in Somerset county, State of Pennsylvania, of comparatively poor parents, Jacob Strawn, or Strahan. Like all American children, he received a school education, and felt the desire to get on common to all boys whenever they are free. He married before leaving home, and then took to clearing a piece of ground for a farm. Late in the night did he keep chopping up the timber by fires which his wife made; and early in the morning, allowing himself not above two hours' sleep, was he again at work. He was successful; but soon gave up his first clearing, and removed to another in Ohio. Here he stuck and prospered for eleven years, when he removed further west and fixed himself in Illinois. He bought there three hundred acres of land. From the beginning of life he had a passion for cattle, and he made it his business to buy, sell, feed, and drive them. On his three hundred acres he built a log house: forward he went buying, feeding, and selling cattle; adding acre to acre, herd to herd, till his three hundred acres increased, in two compact farms, to sixteen thousand three hundred acres, all situated in Morgan and Sangamon counties, State of Illinois. He feeds sixteen hundred head of cattle, seven or eight hundred hogs, fifty horses, and from fifty to a hundred mules. His first log hut has given place to a handsome brick house, that should be far more worthy of respect hereafter than the robber castles of the middle ages which we admire. He cultivates nearly three thousand acres with maize, and leaves the bulk of his land in grass. He sells stock yearly to the value of 100,000 dollars. His land is in admirable order, and is generally cultivated by contract, he letting it in portions to other men to till under his direction. In the half-peopled country in which he first settled he had some difficulty in procuring cattle. Then he scoured the whole district, riding by day and by night, on roads or without roads, through storms and through sunshine. In hunting up cattle, and driving them, he passed days and nights on horseback, getting no other sleep than in the saddle. He soon formed connections over a wide extent of country, and had, in different places, pilots, who were necessary, and assistants ready at his summons. No beast was, in his younger days, too wild for him to subdue; and it has been said—but this smells of Kentucky—that he could seize a beast by the horn and nose and throw him on the ground. He acquired such accurate knowledge of cattle that he could ride through a drove, count them, calculate the weight of each beast to a few pounds, and their value, and offer a price or buy them on the spot, before another man could well tell their number. He was a great trader before he kept a book, yet he made no mistakes. He knew cattle by sight better than men, and never forgot the beast with which he had once formed an acquaintance. By energies like his, the great provision market of the west became supplied with beef and pork; dairies were formed, and the States came to export annually about 100,000 barrels of beef, 200,000 barrels of pork, 60,000,000 lbs. of ham, 60,000,000 lbs. of lard, 4,000,000 lbs. of cheese, and 14,000,000 lbs. of butter. Mr. Strawn is still a hearty man, with three sons to assist him in his business; but he complains that he has become lazy, and must now sleep four hours, when formerly two were sufficient. He rises, however, with the dawn, and is active through many hours. He abjures alcohol, and delights in milk and apple-pie. His great exertions and services have obtained for him the name, as we learn from the *Prairie Farmer*, of the "Napoleon of cattle"; and in the Far West his merits are recognised as a perfect exemplification of how the people there go ahead.

It is pleasant to add that at all the new towns of the West there is an abundance of newspapers. In Chicago alone there are five daily papers, six weekly papers, one semi-monthly, and three monthly periodicals. The *Prairie Farmer* is one of the latter; and to it and the *Chicago Democratic Press* we are indebted for much of the curious information we have laid before our readers.

THE SANDPIPER.

To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

I have just read in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of the 20th instant the description given of a Sandpiper which was shot by a gentleman near Cambridge, on the 12th of December last, with an Engraving of the bird. A bird answering to that description in every respect, both as to size, form, and colour of plumage, and of which the Engraving is an exact representation, was shot by me at Bigswear, on the banks of the Wye, in Gloucestershire, on Friday last, the 19th inst. The bird, not being known, was particularly examined, and shown to some gentlemen, who agreed, after reading the account, and seeing the Engraving of the Sandpiper, that it was the same bird. It is to be regretted that it was too late to preserve the bird as a specimen, since it appears to be a rare bird in this country.

I am your obedient servant,
W. S. R.
Bigswear, Jan. 23, 1855.

CHAPTER OF THE BATH. Her Majesty, it is said, will shortly after her arrival in London be present at a grand review of the distinguished order, of which Prince Albert is Grand Master, for the purpose of investing Lieutenant-General Sir De Lacy Evans (now a Knight Commander) and Major-General the Earl of Cardigan, who distinguished himself, if by his best efforts, at Malakof, with the insignia of the grand captain of the order.

INTERNATIONAL CIVILITY. On the 1st of January, a Russian ambuscade, at about 11 p.m., from our troops, who had themselves to our soldiers and politely saluted them, when the Russian was turned back by our men. As soon as the Russian had left, and the fire of the rifle was laid down, the crack of the rifle was again as lively as ever. No one could have supposed that but a few minutes previously there was a suspension of hostilities, for the bullets (the *mouches*, as the men call them) came whistling past the ears of the men at their work. In war, at a given signal, salutes are exchanged; on another, the same men try to kill each other. This is military custom. The ground in the vicinity of the camp is strewn with cannon-balls and fragments of shells. In some places the balls lie as thick as pebbles; just dug up in a field. Near the town there are not so many cannon-balls, but more fragments of shells and grenades. The clay soil is often marked with dark streaks of blood or gunpowder; yet we have very few wounded.—*Letter from the French Camp, Dec. 31.*

MARRIAGE OF SIR H. DE
TRAFFORD WITH LADY A.
TALBOT.

LAST week the quiet monotony which usually pervades the town and neighbourhood of Rugby, was agreeably dissipated by an "auspicious event" celebrated in a manner that divested it of the commonplaces usually attending marriages even in high life. The event we refer to was the celebration, on Wednesday, the 17th inst., of the marriage of Sir Humphrey de Trafford, Bart., with the Lady Annette Talbot. Both names, as our readers may be aware, are inseparably connected with some of the most stirring epochs of English history. The de Traffords are a family of high antiquity and great wealth in Lancashire, of which county the present representative of the family, the subject of our notice, is Lord-Lieutenant. The lady is the eldest daughter of the late Colonel Charles Talbot, by Julia, daughter of the late Sir Henry Tichborne, Bart. (subsequently married to Capt. Washington Hibbert). She and her brother, the present Earl of Shrewsbury, are the lineal descendants of many "renowned Talbots"—of the mighty Earl, among the rest, who upheld so long the English power in France. Both families have ever been numbered among the leading supporters of the Roman Catholic faith; and the knowledge that the marriage ceremony would be invested with many accessories characteristic of a bygone age, in addition to the usual picturesque ceremonial of the Romish Church, created much interest in the Midland and Northern Counties. A great number of the neighbouring gentry had also received invitations to the grand ball which was to be given in the evening, in celebration of the event; and in the hotels of Rugby every bed had been engaged for a considerable period.

At Bilton Grange, the residence of Captain and Mrs. Hibbert, a distinguished circle of guests had been for some days assembled, including the Earl of Howth and the Ladies Mary and Emily St. Lawrence, Lord and Lady Dormer and the Hon. Miss Dormer, Viscount St. Lawrence, Mr. and Lady Catherine Wheble, Hon. G. S. Smythe, &c., &c. After breakfasting, the company assembled in the gallery at Bilton Grange, and here the *coup d'œil* was the most charming that can be imagined. The room itself was of great length, paneled with dark oak, and hung with sombre portraits and gorgeous tapestry. Peopled with figures, harmonising so well with the spirit of the place, it was difficult to avoid being carried back in imagination five or six centuries at least. The bridesmaids, twelve in number, were attired in white silk, with a cope or mantle of coloured corded silk, fastened with a brooch of pearl, and falling in long straight mediæval-looking folds from the shoulders. Six of the mantles were red, and six blue, thus equally dividing between them the colours of the Madonna. The head-dresses consisted of blue and red wreaths to match the mantles, with the indispensable white tulle veils falling from the back of the head over the whole person. The ladies who officiated on this occasion were the Lady Gwendeline Talbot, younger sister of the bride; Miss Belinda de Trafford, sister of the

bridegroom; the ladies Emily and Mary St. Lawrence, cousins of the bride; Miss Tempest, niece of the bridegroom; the Hon. Mary Dormer, cousin of the bride; Miss Hibbert, the Misses Lydia, Margaret, Cecilia, and Emily Hibbert, her half-sisters, and Miss Teresa Townley. The bride's costume—not very dissimilar in character—was of white *glacé* silk, richly trimmed with Brussels lace. Her Ladyship wore a cope of white watered silk, embroidered with gold and silver flowers, fastened with tassels of the same. A brilliant diamond cross hung round the neck, costly bracelets on the arms; and the prescriptive orange wreath and point veil dependent from the head completed the costume. Mrs. Washington Hibbert, the mother of the bride, was most picturesquely attired. Her dress, also of white silk, was trimmed with ruches of dark-blue ribbon vandyked; and the cope was of dark-blue velvet suspended from each shoulder by a *coque de perle*. A head-dress of the same material, ornamented with pearls, heightened and completed the effect of the magnificent robe. The marriage was solemnised at the chapel attached to St. Mary's College, Rugby. This edifice was built about eight years since, by Captain Hibbert. In it novitiates are educated in the doctrines of the Church of Rome. From the spot where the bridal party were set down to the entrance of the chapel, the path had been covered with crimson cloth, and covered by a canvas roof, gaily ornamented with banners. They were received by the officiating priest, and on the arrival of Dr. Ullathorne (Titular Bishop of Birmingham) the ceremony was performed by him. After an admirable and impressive address to the contracting couple by Dr. Ullathorne, a grand pontifical high mass was celebrated. This was just before noon briefly interrupted by the retirement of the bride and bridegroom into a side aisle, in order that the registrar of the district should complete the legal form, to comply with the law which requires all marriages not effected by special license to be completed before that hour. Outside the chapel the happy pair were loudly cheered by an immense concourse of persons assembled, whose enthusiastic cheers testified to the popularity which the excellent owner of Bilton Grange has won from all classes and creeds during a long residence in the locality.

The company having returned to the Grange, a superb *déjeuner* was served in the banqueting-hall—an exquisite apartment with an open arched roof of great beauty. A gallery occupies one end, and the walls are decorated with old portraits in oak frames, in capital keeping with the rest of the apartment. On this occasion a famous bride-cake, decorated with appropriate Scriptural mottoes, was placed on a stand in the centre of the hall, under a magnificent silver corona, designed by Captain Hibbert.

After doing ample justice to the good things provided, the health of the bride and bridegroom was proposed in an appropriate speech by Dr. Ullathorne. Sir Humphrey de Trafford, in a feeling manner, returned thanks. The host and hostess, and finally the bridesmaids, having been similarly honoured, the party rose and retired.

The ball in the evening was attended by a large party of the

THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY, IN ST. MARY'S CHAPEL.



RECEPTION OF THE BRIDAL CORTEGE AT ST. MARY'S CHAPEL.



neighbouring gentry; and the poor in the neighbourhood were also relieved by the liberality of Captain Hibbert.

Bilton Grange, situate within three miles of Rugby, the seat of Captain Washington Hibbert, the present husband of the bride's mother, is, *par excellence*, one of the most unique and perfect Gothic residences in England. What it lacks in antiquity Captain Hibbert has made up by the most lavish expenditure of ornament, controlled only by the exquisite taste which pervades every part of the mansion. The general design of the house was Captain Hibbert's own, and the details were carried out under the personal superintendence of the late lamented Mr. Pugin, who justly considered the interior one of his chefs-d'œuvre. Where unlimited means are placed at the disposal of artists of the highest rank in their profession, the result may easily be anticipated; and Bilton Grange is one of those houses that will stand for ages a monument of the liberality and good taste of its gallant owner. The leading features of the mansion are the great gallery, the banqueting-hall, and the drawing-room. It is impossible to speak too highly of the general effect of all these apartments. The gallery, which is about 100 feet in length, might have been built in the thirteenth century, so completely has the spirit of the old architects been caught in its design and arrangement. The walls were hung with ancient family portraits, interspersed here and there with panels filled with tapestry of the richest hues and most antique manufacture. From the ceiling hang a number of Gothic coronas, by which the gallery is lighted; and the floor is composed of polished oak. The banqueting-hall is a stately apartment, having an open arched roof of great beauty. A minstrel's gallery occupies one end of the apartment, and the walls are hung with old portraits, in perfect keeping with the sombre tone of the general decorations. But the drawing-room bears away the palm. This is an exquisitely-finished saloon of great beauty, with bay-windows looking upon the garden. Over the fireplace, which is of elaborately-carved stone work, is emblazoned the figure of St. Hubert, the patron saint of the Hibberts, with labels bearing the family mottoes, "Sit prudenter" and "Pugna pro patria," on either side. The walls are hung with a material of great brilliancy of colour, harmonising charmingly with the fittings of the room—the pattern chiefly consisting of squares, within which the family monogram is shown in every variety of device. Around the cornices are inscribed in Gothic characters a series of mottoes enjoining the practice of the moral virtues. The ceiling is carved and ornamented in gold and colours, and the furniture admirably preserves the true Gothic style of the apartment.

On entering the Chapel, which is situate just on the confines of the borough, and nearly opposite the famous old school from which the place has attained all the celebrity it ever had, the spectator soon finds that it is to the liberality of Captain Hibbert the members of the Roman Catholic religion in this district are indebted for the erection of a very beautiful chapel standing in its own grounds, and annexed to a college of considerable extent, in which novices are educated in the doctrines of the Church of Rome. Upon a tablet, immediately upon entering

the chapel, there is inscribed as follows:

A FAITHFUL TRANSLATION OF THE GRANT OF POPE PIUS IX., CONCEDED TO THE PRAYER OF THE CONGREGATION OF ST. MARIE'S CHURCH, RUGBY.

Most Holy Father.—A church having been erected by the piety of Captain Hibbert, a convert to our holy religion, in the neighbourhood of Rugby, in Warwickshire, dedicated to the great Mother of God, the consecration and solemn opening of the same having taken place on the 8th of September, 1847, the faithful of that place supplicate your Holiness to grant a plenary indulgence on solemn festivals, and on those of Our Ladye, to all of the faithful, who, after confession and holy communion, will visit the aforesaid church, praying according to the intention of your Holiness.

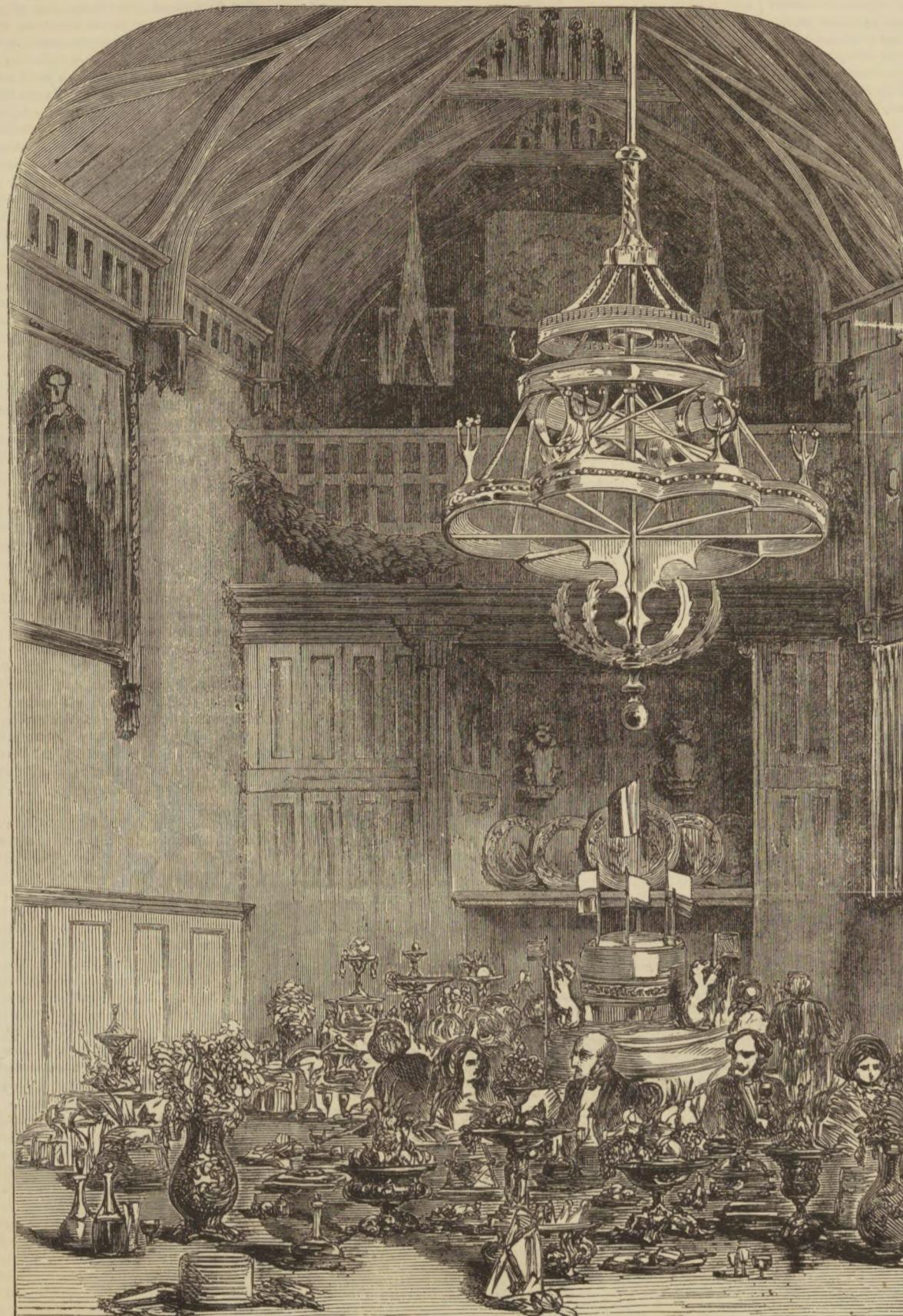
Rome, Nov. 16, 1851.—Granted as requested. POPE PIUS IX.
Seen by us William Bernard, Bishop of Birmingham.

After perusing this document, it can be no matter of surprise that the occasion of an event with which the happiness of a member of Captain Hibbert's family was so intimately associated should have been gladly selected by the members of the Romish Church in this district as a favourable opportunity for testifying their gratitude and respect towards him. This was done in an effective manner on the 17th inst.; and it may be doubted whether on any former occasion within the last two centuries a ceremony appertaining to the Romish Church has been celebrated in this country in a more imposing manner than was the marriage of Sir Humphrey and Lady Annette De Trafford.

The interior of the Chapel had been very elaborately decorated for the occasion. Mr. Hardman, of Birmingham, with his staff of officials, had been employed for some time past in carrying out plans, the completeness of which were beyond all question. The Chapel itself consists of a nave, which is separated by a handsome carved oak screen from the altar. The Ladye Chapel, on the north side of the altar is approached by an aisle running parallel with the nave, from which it is divided by a series of arches. The interior walls of the chapel were decorated with large emblazonments, displaying the arms of the two families of Talbot and De Trafford; and, on either side of the altar were banners bearing heraldic shields. Upon a label over the chancel arch was emblazoned, in black letters of the sixteenth century, the following text from the Gospel of St. John:

There was a marriage in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and Jesus also was invited, and his disciples, to the marriage.

And upon labels under the wall-plates, extending entirely round the edifice, the Douay version of the 128th Psalm was inscribed in corresponding characters. The pillars throughout the sacred edifice were wreathed with bands of shamrock, showing the Irish descent of the family; and natural ivy wreaths, ornamented with bows of white ribbon, lined the soffit of the arches and capitals of all the pillars. The seats in the centre of the nave had been entirely removed, and in front of the altar screen was placed a "prie Dieu," covered with crimson velvet, upon which were embroidered in gold lace the monograms of the betrothed pair. The altar was hung with red and gold tapestry of Gothic pattern, a gift of the bride to the chape.



THE DEJEUNER, IN THE BANQUETING-HALL, AT BILTON GRANGE.



BILTON GRANGE, NEAR RUGBY.

THE LIFE AND WORKS OF W. ETTY, R.A.*

ETTY was an instance—one out of many in the history of modern art, and particularly that of our own country—of a man endowed with a certain amount of natural gifts, achieving a certain and respectable amount of success, but failing of attaining a first rank for want of proper education and direction of his talent. Adopting art, in spite of many difficulties, at an age almost too advanced to submit to the drudgery of instruction, and soon discovering a facility in a special province of art, that of colour; obliged to paint, for a livelihood, ere he had learned to draw; he followed up his *specialities* to the end, to the almost total neglect of every other requirement of excellence.

The son of a spice-dealer and gingerbread-maker at York, William Etty was, at the usual age of putting out to life, apprenticed to a printer at Hull, with whom he served the appointed seven years, doing his duty as a compositor, though much against the grain; his fixed predilection being for painting. At the termination of his apprenticeship, then nearly nineteen years of age, his friends yielded to his importunities, and sent him up to London on a visit to an uncle, who was well to do in the gold-lace trade; a kind-hearted man, who resolved upon giving the youth a fair trial in the field of his ambition. Introduced to Opie and Fuseli, and afterwards to Lawrence, he was received as a pupil of the last named for a twelvemonth, on payment of a fee of a hundred guineas; but being left very much to his own resources, saving the occasional copying of a portrait, or parts of one, it is not to be supposed that he learned much in a school so refined, yet so artificial and conventional, as that of the fashionable portrait-painter. Meantime, admitted as a pupil in the Royal Academy, he studied and worked unrestrictedly in his own way—unresolved at first what line to adopt. At an earlier period, before entering the Life School, he thought of painting landscape; but “afterwards,” to use his own words, “when I found that all great painters of antiquity had become thus great through painting great actions and the human form, I resolved to paint nothing else;” and, pursuing at a later time the same idea, he goes on to say, “Finding God’s most glorious work to be woman—that all human beauty had been concentrated in her—I resolved to dedicate myself to painting, not drapers’ or milliners’ work, but God’s most glorious work, more finely than ever had been done.” Now, if we wanted the clue to the mistake of Etty’s career, and a measure of his misconception of High Art, and of his own capabilities for it, we have it in these few vain words. The great painters of antiquity painted the human form as the interpreters of great actions or of grand sentiments; Etty merely painted it as a thing of beauty *per se*, without regard to great actions or grand sentiment. As to woman being the “most glorious work” of creation, it is not the fact—being the weaker vessel, and second to man; and insufficient for the realisation of the grandest subjects in the epic of art. The sneer against “drapers’ and milliners’ work,” is an impertinence, exposing ignorance of the grandest works of the greatest painters, both ancient and modern, and a want of appreciation of the diviner attributes of human beauty. In the days of great art, both painting and sculpture, ancient and modern, the rule (to which of course there have been exceptions) has been to drape the figure, particularly the female; and the triumph of the artist has been to show beauty of form and grace of attitude, improved by appropriate and tasteful costume, and giving life and character to the cold marble or the flat canvas, by the development displayed in the head, and the expression of the face, upon which his greatest study and care were bestowed, and which were the test and proof of his inspiration. Etty found himself gifted with the knack of imitating the colour and texture of the human flesh; but he was not so successful in drawing the human figure, whether in action or repose; and had no conception of the diviner part of our nature—the soul, the mind; of which the body is but the vehicle.

We have said Etty was not strong at drawing; and the reason was simply, that, having no natural gifts for what the Germans call *motive*, of which drawing is the chief exponent, so he did little to supply the technical power by study. According to his biographer, “blind motions towards colour stirred within him; ineffectually as yet. The attempts of even later date are remembered as ‘black and colourless.’ But the impulse, the instinct were there;” and then we have the rest in his own telling:—“One night in the *Life* Fuseli was visitor. I threw aside the chalk, took up my palette set with oil colours, and began to paint the figure. ‘Ah! there,’ said Fuseli, ‘you seem at home;’ and truly so I felt;” and from that time he continued to paint the colour of the model before him, the outline form of which he could not trace; only occasionally attempting a copy from the antique. Is it surprising that his first efforts were failures, and that in 1810 (when twenty-three years of age) his six pictures tendered to the Royal Academy for exhibition were rejected? “Deep was the wound,” he says, “my vanity and self-conceit had received;” and noble, because generous and candid, was the remark made to him on the occasion by Sir Thomas Lawrence:—“My (former) master told me the truth in no flattering terms. He said, ‘I had a very good eye for colour, but that I was lamentably deficient in all other respects almost;’” and Etty, to do him justice, taking the admonition in good part, set himself to work “studying the skeleton, the origin and insertion of the muscles,” sketching from Albinus, and from “prints of the antique statuary.” But it was too late to “get up” the alphabet and spelling-book of Art; and so Etty continued his devotion to the Muses and Graces after his own fashion,—one in which millinery and dressmaking, any more than the osseous and muscular development, were to have no part. Still, however, he did not perfect his really taking, and in many respects effective, colouring all at once. He changed his plan frequently before he was satisfied of being in the right way; and then he records the fact in a manner which opens a new and not very agreeable insight into the artist’s mind. We know not whether there is any necessary connection between painting and unwholesome religious sentimentality, but it is remarkable that neither Haydon nor Etty could finish a good day’s work, nor manage a good commission, without perceiving in it the interposition of a special providence, which they acknowledged in prayers of thanksgiving, which shock us as we read them. For instance, in the case of poor Etty now spoken of, after detailing certain principles of good colouring which he has at length lighted on, he bursts forth in the following strain:—“O Father of every good and perfect thing! do Thou be pleased to assist my blindness; and to grant that in this and all other advances to knowledge I may be ever conscious of Thy goodness, and use them to the advantage of society. For Christ’s sake. Amen.” This was early in life; but even still less excusable, and still more disagreeable to our mind, is what we read of him (in 1839, at the ripe age of fifty-two) when seeing the number of ambitious pictures by Hilton left unsold at the Royal Academy:—“How thankful to God I ought to be,” emphatically exclaimed Etty, “that I have not a single picture on my hands!”

The secret of Etty’s success was that he painted a low class of subjects, in which very little of mind entered; that he painted everlastingly, always copying in the *Life* in the Academy, or from models in his own studio; but, above all, that he was “contented with very small returns,” and was constantly commissioned by the picture-dealers. The truth was Etty, thrifty, not to say penurious in habit, was one of those who could never refuse an offer, if enforced with the clink of gold, or the rustle of notes; and the profits which have been made by those who invested money in his works, must have been enormous. Amongst other passages of a like kind we read:—

Of the numerous (modern picture) dealers who in subsequent years relied so much for their supply on Etty, the first in the field was Mr. Colls, who, in his appreciation of Etty, was, as late as 1835, in advance of the rest of the world. His connection with the painter, one fruitful in minor works of fancy, commenced in the spring of that year with the purchase of a beautiful picture—“Wood Nymphs Sleeping; Satyr Bringing Flowers: Morning”—at a price in keeping with those Etty then commanded—£55. After many a subsequent change from hand to hand, it, in 1851, realised £500. Mr. Colls remembers buying of Etty, during the immediately subsequent period, five other pictures, at about 50 guineas each: one, an important work, “containing twenty-one figures”—“Christ Blessing Little Children.” All which, as many others of succeeding years, secured originally for an old song, as it would now be thought (£10, £20, £30, and sold at a moderate advance), have been bought by the same dealer again, and sold, bought, and sold over and over, until by successive stages reaching £300 and £400.

The following story is too rich to be omitted:—

October sees him in Manchester, for a day or two, hoping to sell a picture. To its exhibition he had sent the “Delilah;” for which one offer of a £100 had been refused, to his present remorse. Fated this year to ill-success, he finds it still unsold; begins to fear it will “stick by him.” A call was made and an evening spent with Daniel Grant, “one of the most benevolent men in Manchester,” the possessor of “Venus and her Doves” commissioned on the painter’s first visit. But “trade is bad” this year, the firm a loser by an odd £100,000 or so; and manufacturers “afraid of pictures.” The following day, after attending some neighbouring races, Etty dined with Mr. Grant. Over their wine, the pictures being mentioned, his wealthy host takes it into his head to bid for them: asks “what he will take” for the “Delilah” and the “Sirens” “in the lump,” not having seen the latter. On his turn, the painter was alarmed for the sale of his pictures, and would fain “turn them into cash.” “Thinking,” he tells his brother, “by going to the lowest sum, I

* The “Life of William Etty, R.A.,” by Alexander Gilchrist, of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law. Two vols. B.^rge.

might tempt him, I said £300 for the two”—the original price, and that a nominal one, of the “Sirens” alone. £300 the manufacturer had that morning put in his pocket to risk in the betting-ring, and had lost only £25 of it. Willing to save the remainder, and lay it up in a more tangible luxury, he threw down £200, “in notes,” before the nervous painter, to whom money in hand was always a temptation. But £200 for two such works, the product of the best hours of one year in the maturity of the painter’s life, in the maturity of his skill and fame, was no irresistible bait even to so bad a man of business as Etty. “Another £50” failing to seduce him, the tempter pocketed his ineffectual notes; and the artist already regrets his own obduracy—“may not have such another offer.” He remorsefully calls to mind his uncle’s aphorism—“Never refuse money, William!”—counsel which he had hitherto scrupulously borne in mind; and continued to do so, during years when it was hardly so appropriate. “A lost occasion gone for ever by,” he fears, this opportunity of securing £250 will prove. On parting from his host late at night, to the latter’s abrupt query, “Will you take the money?” Etty, prepared for an unconditional surrender by previous chagrin, responded with a ready affirmative. The bargain was struck. The painter retired to his inn with the £250, and the manufacturer to his bed, owner, at that easy rate, of pictures whose intrinsic claim he was little qualified to apprehend; and of which the mere money value, in 1854, considerably exceeds £2000. The “Sirens” itself is valued at

Again:—“For ‘Venus and her Satellites’ (1835), Etty, having refused one offer, was, as usual, afraid of oversetting his market. It was secured by the Rev. E. P. Owen for less than the 300 guineas asked. Sixteen hundred guineas have since (in private) been proffered for it.”

At the time of the attempted revival of fresco-painting in this country, under the auspices of Prince Albert, Etty received his Royal Highness’s commands to paint one of the compartments in the rustic Summer Temple in Buckingham Palace gardens, a work which he reluctantly commenced, “not expecting to succeed,” as he assured the Prince on receiving the commission, “being unacquainted with the practice of fresco.” And a sad failure he made of it, amidst much vexation of spirit, often having to cut away portions of the plaster, and sometimes painting over portions when dry, and when, of course, the colour could not be absorbed. One drawback was the having to paint perched up on a scaffold; and he offered to give up his first attempt (“Circe and the Sirens Three”), and make a new one (subject, “Hesperus”) in his own studio. The sketch for the latter was left “on probation” at the Palace, but was not approved of. “Notwithstanding the verbal compliment of Prince Albert at the Academy dinner, Etty’s second fresco was never put up. The sketch, when shown to Royalty, had been accorded a glance, and the request to take it away. ‘Poor man, he does not know what we want,’ are the words reported to have been used on the occasion; and, much as we may sympathise with the artist in his disappointment, we can scarcely wonder that he should have failed in this instance of producing exactly what was required in the way of elegant, classic decoration. Etty received £40 from Prince Albert for his labours on the two frescoes, which he sold to Mr. Colls (a steady dealer-patron) for double the amount, who afterwards sold them to Mr. Wethered for £400. *Sic vos non robis*, &c., as sang the poet of old.

All this while Etty was planning and preparing his “Joan of Arc,” one of nine works (three-times-three he considered a lucky number) upon which he wished to base his future fame; and the Royal Commission somewhat interfered with his labours upon it—indeed, damned him, according to the calculation of his biographer, to the money value of some £300 or £400. At last (1847) the work (in three compartments) was finished “on Easter Sunday;” and after it was done he writes:—“By one o’clock on Easter Sunday I felt that I ought to go to the Abbey, and return thanks to Almighty God for having so mercifully dealt with me as to enable me to complete, so far, this colossal effort.” And “not in the Abbey alone did he render his fervent acknowledgments;”—when once asked if he had fulfilled his promise of praise and sacrifice on this score, “Yes,” he replied with much unction, “in York Minster I returned thanks from my heart and soul; and *afterwards took the sacrament!*” The three pictures of “Joan of Arc,” are purchased by Messrs. Colls, Wethered, and Wass, jointly, for £2500 paid down.” “You have put the golden crown upon my head,” Etty joyfully exclaimed to Mr. Colls; and indeed was almost out of his senses with delight, little thinking of the sundry golden opportunities he had lost in his greed after quick and small returns, and the fortunes he had bestowed upon others by picture-manufacturing.

Etty, in spite of asthma, and all the symptoms of premature old age, continued hobbling to the *Life*-room every evening of his life, continued “copying what he saw,”—that is, continued producing Academy studies with scant draperies in prismatic colours to the last (so unlike the practice of Michael Angelo, and other great artists, who knew when to copy and when to produce—when, in short, to leave school); and amassed sufficient to enable him to retire to his dear native city, York, where he bought a house, and where he died, in 1849 (at the age of 62), leaving behind him property (including yet unsold pictures) to the amount of about £23,000.

Mr. Gilchrist, in the production of this memoir, has availed himself with discretion and ability of the various materials placed in his hands for the purpose, and, independently of what necessarily relates to the personal history of his subject, has produced a very agreeable two volumes of art gossip. We could have wished, however, that in reference to one person referred to in his pages, Sir Thomas Lawrence, he had avoided the tone of vulgar sneer, the result of ignorant prejudice which some previous biographers and critics have indulged in. Lawrence was an artist whose talent—not certainly applied in the highest walks—will be more and more admitted as time goes on, and shows the difficulty of adequately supplying his place in a style of portraiture eminently combining the real of every-day life with the ideal dignity of art.

NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICES.—Arrangements are in progress for making new offices for the dispatch of the public business, in place of the inconvenient premises in which the affairs of the Government are at present conducted. For this purpose, it is intended to remove the whole of the houses in the area bounded on the south by Lower Crown-street and Upper Crown-street, Westminster; on the west, in part by Duke-street and the entrance from Duke-street into St. James’s-park; and on certain parts of the north and on other parts of the west by St. James’s-park; on other parts of the north and west by her Majesty’s Colonial-office; on other parts of the north by the north side of Downing-street; and on the east by Whitehall and the west side of King-street. In the new building which will be erected on this site all the business of the various departments of the Government will be transacted.

EDUCATION IN THE MIDLAND DISTRICTS.—Mr. Bowyer, Inspector of Schools for the Eastern and Midland Districts, reports generally well of the schools in connection with unions in this country, but of the school at Billesdon, he says, under the head of instruction:—“A wretched school. Children extremely ignorant, and destitute of intelligence. To the question, ‘What is a graven image?’ the least dull of the boys replied, ‘Lightning, sir, and everything that is in the air above.’ On questioning him, I found that his answer was not a random one, but expressed his real opinion.” Under the head of observations we find the following:—“At my first visit the school was vacant. At my second I found a new mistress, whose ignorance surpassed anything within my experience. To the question, ‘What remarkable event occurred when our Saviour was twelve years old?’ she replied, ‘I believe he was put in the bulrushes.’” A nearly similar instance is recorded at Grantham. Mr. Bowyer writes, “None of the boys could point out Egypt on the map, or explain what was a graven image. One boy said it was going to school.”

COMPULSORY PREPAYMENT OF LETTERS FOR THE EAST.—In order to facilitate, as far as possible, the transmission of letters and newspapers addressed to the officers, seamen, and other persons employed on board transport ships engaged in her Majesty’s service in Turkey and the Black Sea, special mails will in future be made up at the General Post-office for such correspondence on every Monday and Friday evening, and forwarded via France, and by the French Mediterranean packets, to the Postmaster of her Majesty’s Forces in Turkey. The following are the combined British and French rates of postage which will be chargeable on letters so addressed:—Not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., 1s.; exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and not exceeding 1 oz., 2s.; exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and not exceeding 1 oz., 3s.; exceeding 1 oz., and not exceeding 1 oz., 4s.; exceeding 1 oz., and not exceeding 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., 6s.; exceeding 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and not exceeding 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., 6s.; and so on, 1s. being chargeable for every additional quarter of an ounce. The above rates of postage must be paid in advance, or the letters will be opened and returned to the writers. Newspapers will be liable to a postage of 2d. each, which must also be paid in advance.

SURGEONS FOR THE RUSSIAN ARMY.—The enlistment of surgeons for the Russian army has been put a stop to in Prussia, mainly by the representations of the British Ambassador in Berlin, supported by his Austrian colleague. An interpretation has been put upon the 18th article of the Act of Confederation, and, as it draws no distinction between combatants and non-combatants, it is admitted that the engagement of military surgeons for any foreign Power is considered illegal, and prohibited

for the Russian Army. The Great Britain screw steamship, Captain Gray, made her appearance at Queenstown on Sunday night for coals, after a passage of eighty-four days from Melbourne, having left that port on the 29th of October. She brought 239 passengers, all of whom were in good health, and 189,000 ounces of gold, worth £729,000. Her passage was much protracted by easterly gales, especially during the latter portion, when she had to trust to her steaming powers alone. The Great Britain was to leave Queenstown on Monday evening for Liverpool. It is thought she will be taken up for the conveyance of troops for the Crimea, by either the English or French Government.

OPINIONS OF THE SILENT MEMBER.—(No. I.)

I WENT into the House some years ago with the same intention as many others—namely, to talk and have my say on the various subjects brought before Parliament; but I found that when I began to talk others began to cough, or to laugh, or to sleep; or, in fact, to do anything but to listen. As I felt it necessary to assert myself somehow, or somewhere, I used to go home talking to myself; and I have thus acquired a habit, which has grown upon me to such an extent that I generally have something to say—to myself—on every topic of interest.

Though I have had in one sense the talk all to myself, it has not been all on one side; for I have contracted the habit of answering myself, and looking at both sides of a question. Being rather of an argumentative turn, I frequently find myself discussing matters with a good deal of earnestness; but as a man does not easily get out of temper with what he says to himself, however much he might fire up at the same thing if addressed to him by any one else, I have been able to obtain some of the advantages of an argument without any of the inconveniences of a warm and angry discussion.

I fancy that I have profited in some degree by these conversations, such they may be called; and I have often found myself arriving at conclusions which appear to me to be sound, though they are not unfrequently at variance with those which are generally entertained, so that public opinion and my private opinion are sometimes quite opposed to each other. It is a common saying that “public opinion is always right in the long run;” and I believe such to be the fact. But this maxim implies that truth is occasionally a good deal in advance of the public mind, which has to take a very long “run” to reach the point that is ultimately arrived at. The public will no doubt get right at last on every subject; but there is nearly always a good deal of error in the beginning, and it can do no harm to raise a voice on what may be for the moment the unpopular side; for if the voice should be in the wrong it will not prevail, while if in the right the firmness of truth must ultimately triumph over the obstinacy of error. I do not mean to say that I am in the habit of taking the unpopular side of every question; for, on the contrary, there are many subjects on which the popular mind has come up to the truth, but if I am permitted to go on talking from time to time through these columns, I shall often have something to say which may clash with the popular opinion of the moment. Nevertheless, I have so much confidence in my own convictions, that I am almost bold enough to follow the example of Mr. Cobden, who asks for two years at the outside to test the truth of his very unpopular views, and the soundness of his judgment.

Having said thus much by way of introduction of myself to those who will, I hope, become my listeners, I announce my intention to leave off the practice of talking to myself, and to begin talking to the public at large, by means of the very effective mouthpiece through which I am now speaking. I propose to talk on no particular class of subjects, and in no other style than the colloquial; for I have an objection to what is called “talking big,” and I shall try to prevent my talk from being so frivolous as to deserve the appellation of “idle talk;” or so tedious as to degenerate into mere garrulity.

It may be expected that I should begin to talk about that which is in the mouth of everybody—the war; but it seems to me, unhappily, a subject that will not bear talking of. There was a great deal too much talk and too little work before the war began; and I—as one professing to have more respect for public opinion as it will be than for public opinion as it is—feel that, however loudly people are talking just now on the subject of the war, silence will ultimately be considered the wisest course we can adopt as to the present moment of our history. If it is possible to talk down the system by which the army of England has been sacrificed, there are tongues enough already going to accomplish such a desirable object; and a powerful reinforcement of talkers will be of course brought into play (how different from being brought into work!) by the reassembling of the House of Commons. If we are to lick the Russians it must be with something more effective than our tongues, which have long since done their utmost against the enemy.

Murder is not an agreeable subject of conversation, but it has been lately forced upon us as a topic for talk by the commission of more than one crime of great apparent atrocity. I cannot help thinking that there is too great a tendency not only to talk but to jump to conclusions on the subject of great alleged crimes, before the supposed criminals are tried; and the possibility is that, instead of being brought to justice, they may be brought to in-justice by the prejudice that has been created against them. We boast a great deal about our “trial by jury,” and the right of every man to be presumed innocent until a jury shall have found him guilty; but no sooner does a case of homicide arise than we have the newspapers teeming with accounts of “The Murder,” or the “Double Murder,” and all the alleged “Antecedents of the Murderer.” I confess that I felt a little ashamed of the English press and of the English public, to whose taste these things are, no doubt, palatable, when I read in a respectable Sunday newspaper, and subsequently saw copied into the *Morning Chronicle*, an article with reference to the Italian who now lies under an accusation of murder. The writer evidently felt that he was doing wrong, for his remarks begin with an admission that “to comment on a crime pendeante lite is not generally considered within the province of a public journalist.” Notwithstanding this assertion, he goes on to speak of the act of the accused as a premeditated murder, and concludes by calling on the jury to convict; observing that “if, upon any plea of overpowering passion or even of temporary insanity, one or both of which may possibly be set up in his defence, he shall be permitted to escape, then there will be no longer safety for any man who may however involuntarily offend a bloodthirsty ruffian, or thwart however innocently, the course of an assassin’s passions. This practice of condemnation before trial is quite at variance with that spirit of fair play about which we English talk so much, but on which, unless we discourage the sort of language that the press is in the habit of holding, we shall have no reason to pride ourselves. When public opinion goes wrong, the whole nation is likely to go wrong, for public opinion is the best check we can have on the abuse of all authority. I am not sure that the prejudice against Barthélémy has not worked a serious injustice in the case of that unfortunate man, who, from the first moment of his apprehension, was denounced in the newspapers as a “double murderer.” I am not his apologist, but I confess I take the same view as that of the “Lawyer” who wrote to the *Times* to point out that Barthélémy had been declared guilty of a felony in killing Mr. Moore, without having been tried for it, and that he was to be hanged in consequence of that act being a felony, though the point had never been submitted to the opinion of a jury. I have seen no satisfactory answer to this objection, and I fancy that none could be given; but as everybody said, “Oh! Barthélémy is a monster, who deserves hanging,” nobody seemed to think it worth while to consider any legal point in his favour. I have once or twice said to myself, “Suppose Moore had been the assailant of Barthélémy; suppose the former had made a murderous attack on the latter, who had killed his assailant in self-defence, where would have been the felony, and how would the killing of Collard have been murder?” The suggestion is an improbability, but not an impossibility, and, at all events, a jury should have been called on to decide as to the guilt or innocence of Barthélémy in an affair which was the very essence of the crime he was accused of in the case of Collard. However, the man is hanged, and I may be told “it’s useless now to talk about it;” but perhaps by talking now we may help to make people know better another time, should such another event happen.

Talking of criminals naturally sets one thinking about the police—a body with reference to which some strange stories are told,

and some strange facts have obtained publicity. I shall not fall into the error I have imputed to others by prejudging the "detective" King, who is entitled to a fair trial on the charge of inciting juvenile thieves to rob and sharing their plunder. I am, however, glad to see that the Government has taken one of the means necessary for improving the quality and the character of the police force, by raising the pay of the third-class men and diminishing the amount of duty. Nine hours at this season of the year, or at any season, was too long to expect the unwearied attention of a policeman on his beat; and we cannot be surprised that he sometimes accepted the shelter of our kitchens and the hospitality of our larders, upon the invitation of a soft-hearted cook or a sentimental housemaid. It would be well if these were the worst errors of the force, against more than one of whom charges have been recently brought and substantiated; though, as a whole, the police may be well deserving of public confidence. At all events, it has become obvious to the authorities that a fit body of men cannot be kept up without a more liberal scale of pay, which has accordingly been ordered by Lord Palmerston.

FINE ARTS.

EXHIBITION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

The second exhibition of the Photographic Society has just been opened at the Gallery of the Water-Colour Society, Pall-mall East. The collection is a numerous one, consisting of nearly 700 pieces, which cover all the walls and all the screens. Many of the works are very interesting and beautiful and afford ample evidence of the improvements which are daily making in this new process, and the important aid it may lend to Art itself. For the truth must also be declared: Photography will never supersede Art;—it will be a slave in the hands of Art to produce in abundance, and with wonderful rapidity, examples and materials for after use; but Art must still exercise its functions to decide their applications—to fashion them to the purpose, to invest them with life, with tone, with feeling; in fact, to render them picturesque.

Photography, though a rapid process, is still a process of time; and the slightest change in the position of the object whilst the work is going on will mar the effect; and for a simple outline give a blotch, more or less extensive, more or less intense. Hence perfectly inanimate objects, as architectural subjects, for instance, are best adapted to it; but even in these we find a hardness of outline, a glare of the lights, and a heaviness in the shadows, descending to impermeable darkness in the deeper shades, which, strange as it may sound to say so, is not true to nature, nature as seen by the eyes of man. Let it be recollect that the plane upon which the sun-picture is cast is inanimate steel or paper; whereas the eye of man is endowed with life, gifted with a medium, expanding and contracting according to circumstances, and by the power of which the more prominent asperities of an object are subdued to the mind's apprehension, and the more distant and darker portions, after some curious prying, explored; and we shall understand the virtue of that crowning charm of the painter's art—chiaroscuro—a charm which Photography is incapable of rendering.

The further the object photographed is removed from a condition of stillness the less successful the result. The foliage of trees and the ripple of water will not consent to "sit" to the practitioner; and wild and reckless confusion respond to all the attempts to portray these features of " Dame Nature" when seen under the influence of even a breath of air. Man, civilised man, is more tractable. He places himself on a seat, and fixes his every limb and feature as in the stillness of death, until such time as the work of portraiture is accomplished. But, in doing this, is he aware that he flies in the teeth of nature, which abhors actual repose, as it abhors a vacuum? The "effect" produced is that of torpidity, without its "repose"—of death, without its truth; and when the portraiture is done in duplicate, and presented in "the round" by means of the stereoscope, the aspect is not so true, not so near nature as a wax figure—more ghastly and incongruous than painted stone;—which we are sorry to find Mr. Gibson considers perfection. Again, look at any of the productions in this room where we have a human figure thrown in amongst inanimate objects; as that sleeping man in a "View in the Highlands";—how obtrusive is the figure of the descendant of Adam; yet how much less life and truth in his appearance than in that of the shrubs and foliage in which he is embedded. Of course in subjects of action, in which an event is supposed to be going forward, the epic of painting, Photography is out of the question. Suspended action is a thing most difficult to depict; one of the neatest achievements of art—for it is a thing impossible in nature. We throw out these suggestions merely as arguments in support of our opinion that, whilst Art has much to gain from the resources, she has nothing to fear from the rivalry, of Sun-painting.

The collection now presented by the Photographic Society is rich in variety. Professionals and amateurs have been actively at work during the summer in all parts of the world, producing reminiscences of objects of beauty and interest. Portugal, Turkey, France, Russia, Wales, and all parts of our "tight little island," have been explored in search of the picturesque; and most charming *merveilles* have been brought away in many instances. Portraiture, also, we have in abundance; and not a few specimens of insect economy, and in other departments of natural history.

Amongst the most successful exhibitors we may mention Mr. Robertson (various scenes in and near Constantinople), Mr. Hugh Owen (scenes in Portugal and near Bristol), Mr. J. C. Bourne (Suspension-bridge at Kieff, in Russia), Mr. Norman, Mr. H. Cooke, Mr. T. C. Ponting, Mr. H. Tyler (copies from prints), Mr. J. G. Tunney (scenes near Edinburgh), Mr. De La Motte (Views of the Interior of the Crystal Palace), Messrs. Bisson Frères (Hôtel de Ville, Paris), and Mr. Mayall, Mr. De Laroche, Mr. T. H. Henman, &c., in portraiture. Decidedly the most interesting and satisfactory part of the Exhibition, however, are the fine copies from drawings by Raphael in the Royal collection at Windsor Castle, executed by Mr. Thurston Thompson for Prince Albert. Here, indeed, the exact and obedient process of photography is well and worthily applied, and with a result gratifying in the highest degree; for here Art, be it remembered, has created the subject, and sun-painting has had no accidental or constrained attitudinising of clumsy humanity to copy, but a picture the work of man, which, though every line of it is flat and motionless, speaks of the fulness, and action, and expression of life. Such reproductions are invaluable to the art-student; and we are glad to hear that it is understood to be the intention of the Prince to distribute copies of these remarkable works to the different museums in the country, and also to obtain for a similar purpose copies of other works of like character which are to be found in other collections throughout the country. The copies after Raphael's drawings, now exhibited, comprise sketches for "The Murder of the Innocents;" for "La Disputa" (or the "Theology") and the "Poetry," both in the Vatican; two of the "Virgin and Child;" the "Three Graces," and a "Leda."

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF LANDSCAPE PAINTING IN WATER-COLOURS. By GEORGE BARNARD. W. S. Orr and Co.

This work, the first part of which we noticed with approval some months ago, is now completed, and forms a handsome volume. Mr. Barnard has treated his subject with great ability and fulness, both as regards the theory and practice of the art. The amateur, with this book in his hands, may confidently try his powers in every branch of landscape-painting with a tolerable certainty of acquitting himself respectably, and with daily increasing success. The author, who blinks none of the difficulties of the subject, under the head "Composition," duly impresses upon the learner the necessity of attending to fundamental principles of drawing, including perspective, before attempting anything in the more attractive art of colouring. "Any attempt," he says, "to please by a picture possessing the most harmonious arrangement of charming tints, yet being defective in regard to the choice of objects, in lines misplaced, or faulty in perspective, will be utterly vain and fruitless. Errors like these would undoubtedly offend both the eye and the taste of an intelligent observer; and that, too, in such a degree that any praise he might bestow upon the beauty of the colouring would be accompanied by the regret that powers capable of so much in one branch of art should yet be so deficient in those on which all truthful representation depends. Colour is subordinate to form, and light and shade; for, although more attractive, it is in the representation of nature the least important of the three." The chapter on Light and Shade (chiaroscuro) is ably written, and illustrated by a great number of charming landscape examples.

There are chapters especially devoted to "The Sky, Atmosphere, Clouds, &c.," "Aërial Perspective," "Trees," "Buildings, Ruins, &c.," "Rocks," "Water," "Rustic Figures," "Pictorial Phenomena of Nature (denominated by artists 'Effects');" "On Method," "Style," "Sketching from Nature," &c.; besides ample explanation, both as incidental to the above subjects, and as a department by itself of the theory of colours, and their contrasts. By the aid of Leighton Brothers' chromatic process, all that relates to colour and its treatment is profusely and effectively illustrated. There are, one and all, upwards of a hundred engravings, executed in various styles, but adapted to the particular purpose, neither pains nor expense, apparently, having been spared to render the work both ornamental and practically useful.

CHESS.

R. B., Blandford.—The move of 6. Q to K B 3rd, in the defence of the Muzio Gambit, has been generally, though erroneously, attributed to either Sarratt or Lewis. It occurs in an author who wrote between forty and fifty years before those gentlemen. The other defence you refer to will be found in a useful little book, the joint production of Messrs. Kling and Horwitz, called "Chess Studies."

C. D. G.—Mate cannot be given in the way you propose. See our Solution.

STICKLANDS.—You are right in the Enigmas, but quite abroad in the Diagram.

G. R. W., Louvain.—Philidor was born at Dreux, September, 1726, and died in London, August, 1795. You will find an extremely interesting account of this great master in the French Chess magazine, *Le Palaméde*, vol. 7.

E. M. H., of Hull.—Our opinion shall be given next week.

G. L. Cabarras, North Carolina.—Received, and under consideration.

DREYTON.—Your letter perhaps right, it shall be re-examined.

TOUCHSTONE.—It is from a very little Picture by D'Orville. The original is as follows:

White: K at his R 5th, P at Q B 5th, and Q R 6th, Kt at Q B 2nd, Ps at Q Kt 4th and Q R 2nd.

Black: K at Q R 5th, P at Q R 2nd. White to play and mate in three moves.

A. Z. B. Y.—Wanting in point and power.

C. M. J.—It can be solved easily in two moves.

NOVICE.—Treat the game as an elegant and intellectual recreation, and as nothing more. The man who permits his whole time and attention to be absorbed in the pursuit of any game, even Chess—whose talk is only of this move, or that match, or the other player—is sure to be looked upon, by rational people, as a pitiable trifler.

F. D., PRIZES FOR THE BEST CHESS PROBLEMS.—The committee of the great Chess meeting to be held in May or June at Leamington contemplate giving, we understand, among a variety of other premiums, a very handsome one to the inventor of the twelve best original Chess Problems, of three, four, and five moves.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 369, by Albert, S. Vernon, Omega, T. W. P., R. G., Alpha, Doncaster, are correct.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 570, by W. C. C., Streatham, Devon, Ernest, D. D., F. R. of Norwich, J. P. W., J. Stonehouse, J. M. of Sherburn, E. H., Peter, Cantab, Penthesilea, Omicron, Lind, J. N. C., H. H., Tib, Czar, G. L., Crimée, R. F., O. P. Q., D. C. L., Mentor, Cambria, Swansea, Lex, Civis, Delta, Phiz, F. D., Cadiz, Miles, H. E. S., J. T. W., are correct. All others are wrong.

* * * Many notices are deferred from want of space.

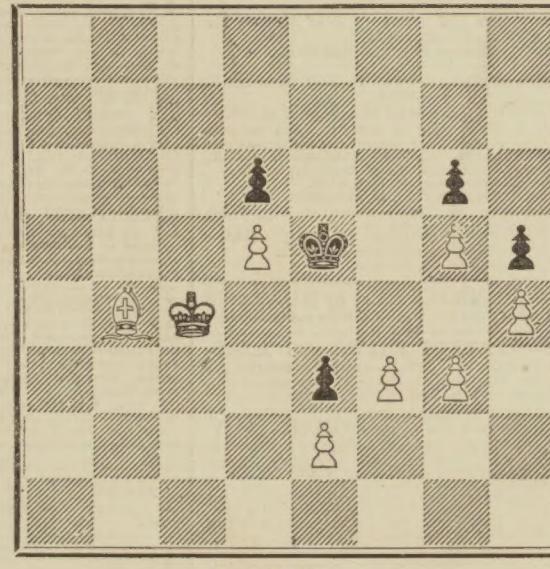
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 570.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1. B to Q B 4th	P to K B 5th (best)	3. Kt to Kt 5th	Anything
2. B to K 6th	P moves	4. B or Kt mates.	

PROBLEM NO. 571.

By Herr CAPRAZ.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in five moves.

CHESS IN THE METROPOLIS.

Mr. STAUNTON gives Mr. BRIEN the odds of the Pawn and Two Moves.

(Remove White's K B P from the board.)

BLACK (Mr. B.) **WHITE (Mr. S.)** **BLACK (Mr. B.)** **WHITE (Mr. S.)**

1. P to K 4th	P to K 3rd	17. K R to K sq	K R to K B 2nd
2. P to Q 4th	Q to K B 3rd	18. K R to K 3rd	P to Q R 3rd (c)
3. K B to Q 3rd	P to Q 3rd	19. P takes Q Kt P	Q R P takes P
4. Q B to K 3rd	P to Q 3rd	20. P to Q R 5th	Kt to Q R 3rd
5. Q Kt to Q 2nd	B to K 2nd	21. Q to her B 3rd (d)	B to K 2nd
6. P to K 5th	Q to K B 2nd	22. Kt to Q B 5th	B takes Kt
7. K Kt to K B 3rd	P to Q 4th	23. P takes B	Q to K B sq
8. Castles	P to Kt 3rd	24. Kt to K Kt 5th (e)	R to K B 5th (f)
9. P to Q B 4th	P to Q B 3rd	25. Kt takes K P	K takes Kt
10. P to Q B 5th	Q to K Kt 2nd	26. R to K R 3rd (ch)	K to Kt 2nd
11. P to Q Kt 4th	Kt to K B 3rd	27. takes K Kt P	R to K Kt 5th (g)
12. B takes Kt	Q takes B	28. R to K R 7th (ch)	K takes B
13. P to Q Kt 5th	Castles (a)	29. Q to K R 3rd	R to K Kt 4th
14. P to Q R 4th	P to Q Kt 3rd	30. R takes B	Q to K Kt sq
15. Q Kt to his 3rd	B to Q 2nd	31. R to K R 7th (h)	Q takes R
16. Q to her B 2nd	B to Q sq (b)	32. Q takes P (ch)	

And the game was drawn.

(a) We cannot understand why White did not take the Q Kt P, and then bring out his Q Kt.

(b) This seems tame, but White has suffered himself to be so hampered with the adversary's Pawns on the Queen's side that he is compelled to adopt a very sorry-looking course of action. It is as well to remark, here, that taking the Kt with his Rook, though very promising in appearance, would have proved an unprofitable venture; for, suppose—

16. R takes Kt 17. K R to Q sq 18. K to K B 5th

17. P takes R 18. K to K 4th 19. K to B sq

And Black escapes with the better game.

(c) Very hazardous; but it was certainly necessary for him to release his Queen's Pieces, possibly.

(d) Lost time. He should at once have played Kt to Q B 5th.

(e) The prelude to a series of very ingenious moves.

(f) Foreseeing the object Black has in view when he marched forward with his Kt, it is surprising White did not guard against the menaced attack, by playing his Rook to Kt 2nd.

(g) Taking the Q B Pawn with the Queen would probably have been better. It would certainly have led to an interesting termination.

(h) The situation is an instructive one, and affords abundant scope for speculation. With Black's game we should certainly have been disengaged to put up with a drawn battle, though it must be admitted that the road to victory, if there be one, is not easy to discover.

CHESS ENIGMAS.

No. 908.—By R. B. WORMALL, Esq., of Oxford.

White: K at K Kt 6th, R at K B 6th and Q R 4th, Bs at K Kt 7th and Q Kt 7th; Ps at K Kt 3rd, B at K 2nd, and Q 2nd.

Black: K at K 4th, Q at Q Kt 8th, R at K Kt sq, Kt at Q 4th, Ps at K Kt 5th and K 5th.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

No. 909.—By Mr. F. THOMPSON, of Derby.

White: K at K 5th, Q at K 2nd, R at Q Kt 7th, Bs at K B 8th and Q R 4th, Kts at Q 8th and Q B 3rd.

Black: K at Q R 3rd, R at Q 6th, B at Q Kt 3rd, Kt at K 8th; Ps at Q 2nd, Q B 2nd and Q 3rd, and Q R 4th.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

No. 910.—By "CHIRURG. RURIS."

White: K at K Kt sq, R at K R 5th and K Kt 6th, B at Q 7th, Kt at Q B 3rd, P at K 5th.

Black: K at K R 6th, R at K Kt 5th, Bs at K R 5th and K B 6th, Kts at K R 8th and Q B 4th; Ps at K R 2nd, K Kt 6th and Q R 6th.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

No. 911.—By F. R., an AMATEUR of Norwich.

White: K at Q R 2nd, Q at Q 7th, B at Q 8th; Ps at K B 3rd, Q B 2nd, and Q Kt 3rd.

Black: K at Q B 4th; Ps at K 2nd, Q 4th, Q B 6th, and Q R 2nd.

White to play, and mate in three moves.

THE BURNETT TREATISES.—The decision of the great literary prizes—one of £1800 and another of £600—to the authors of the two best treatises on "The Being and Attributes of God," was announced on Saturday. The successful competitors were found to be—for the first prize, the Rev. Robert Anchor Thompson, A.M., Louth, Lincolnshire; and for the second, the Rev. John Tulloch, manse of Kettins, Cupar Angus, Principal of St. Mary's College, St. Andrew's, Scotland. There were 208 treatises lodged. The judges were Professors Baden Powell, Henry Rodgers, and Mr. Isaac Taylor. They were unanimous in their judgment. The sealed envelopes were opened in the Town-hall, Aberdeen, by Mr. John Webster, Advocate, in the presence of the other trustees and a large assemblage of the principal citizens.

THE FRENCH LOAN.—A curious instance of the universal popularity of the loan is given in a French paper. At Tarbes, in the south of France, out of 100,000 francs received as deposits, two-thirds of the payments were made in old French and Spanish coins, which had long disappeared from circulation, and must have been hoarded for many years. A more striking proof of confidence in the Government on the part of the lower classes could not be afforded.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

Lord Bloomfield was received by the King of Prussia on Wednesday week, in private audience, for the purpose of delivering to his Majesty a letter in reply to that conveyed by M. d'Usedom to Queen Victoria.

The Austrian Minister at the Court of Hanover, Baron von Koller, was recalled from thence on the 13th inst.; whether permanently or not is not known. The

NEW BOOKS, &c.

RUSSIA and her CZARS. By J. E. BRAZON, Author of "Outline of History of Ireland," "Tales from the History of the Muslims in Spain," &c., &c. London: ROBERT THEBOLD, 23, Paternoster-row.

Stereotype Edition, large print, for Schools, LE NOUVEAU TESTAMENT de NOTRE SEIGNEUR JESUS-CHRIST. Imprimé sur l'édition de Paris, revue et corrigée avec soin d'après le texte Grec. 12mo. 4s. roan. London: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, and Co.

THE BISHOP OF NEW ZEALAND'S FOUR SERMONS. This day is published, price 2s.

THE WORK of CHRIST in the WORLD. Preached before the University of Cambridge. By GEORGE AUGUSTUS SELWYN, D.D., Bishop of New Zealand, formerly Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. Cambridge: MACMILLAN and Co. G. Bell.

Just published, 6s., cloth, or by post, 7s. **THE GOLDEN LECTURES at ST. MARGARET'S,** Lothbury, during 1854. By Rev. H. MELVILLE, B.D. Also from 1850 to 1853. 6s. each year. JAMES PAUL, 1, Chapter-house-court (north side St. Paul's).

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This day, the First Volume, octavo, 12s., **A HISTORY of ENGLAND DURING the REIGN of GEORGE the THIRD.** By WILLIAM MASSEY, M.P. London: JOHN W. PARKER and SON, West Strand.

This day, two volumes, 8vo, 9s., **G WEN;** or, The Cousins. A Tale. By A. M. GOODRICH. London: JOHN W. PARKER and SON, West Strand.

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